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USSR REPLIES TO U.S. ON NUCLEAR TESTS MORATORIUM

LD171421 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet received an address from Gene R. Larocque and Eugene J. Carroll, leaders of the American "Center for Defense Information," calling for a moratorium on all nuclear weapons tests beginning with August 6, 1985, the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The USSR Embassy in Washington was instructed to convey a reply to that address. The reply points out, inter alia, that the Soviet Union has more than once addressed the United States and the other nuclear powers with the proposal to put an end to all nuclear weapons tests. To provide auspicious conditions for drafting an appropriate treaty, the USSR suggested such a practicable measure as a moratorium by all the nuclear powers on all nuclear explosions beginning with an agreed upon date.

The Soviet Union agrees that the moratorium goes into effect on August 6, 1985, the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, as the authors of the address suggest. If the other nuclear powers display positive attitudes, such a moratorium could be declared even earlier and remain in effect till the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and universal prohibition of nuclear weapons tests. In the present-day situation, the reply stresses, a halt to nuclear explosions could constitute a very substantial step towards folding up the nuclear arms race.

The reply also reiterates the Soviet Union's readiness for the immediate resumption of the talks on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons tests. The USSR also suggests that the Soviet-U.S. treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear weapons tests and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, signed in 1974 and 1976 but not yet ratified, not through the fault of the Soviet side, be put into effect.

All these steps can be taken regardless of the progress of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva. At the same time these measures would provide more favourable conditions for the fruitful progress of the Geneva talks aimed at preventing an arms race in space and at terminating it on earth.

ISRAELYAN INTERVIEWED ON USSR MORATORIUM PROPOSAL

LD172138 Moscow TASS in English 2055 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- The introduction of moratorium on deployment of Soviet medium-range missiles and suspension of other reply measures in Europe is considered by the participants in the spring session of the conference on disarmament as a good will gesture which serves the noble aims of strengthening security of the peoples of the world, putting an end to the arms race on earth and preventing it in outer space, said the head of the USSR's delegation to the session Viktor Israelyan. The Soviet Union holds that if one approaches in real earnest the question of ending the arms race, it is logical to, first stop this race and to come over right away to reduction, he said in an interview to the IZVESTIYA Geneva correspondent. The USSR's relevant proposals on freezing nuclear armaments have been put on the agenda of negotiations at the disarmament conference, and we are waiting for a reply to these proposals.

To have nuclear armaments reduced, it is necessary to go through the freeze stage, otherwise such a reduction would prove in practice to be only a cover up for transferring the arms race into a qualitatively different sphere.

The new Soviet initiatives, said Viktor Israelyan, give a major impetus to the work of the disarmament conference, stress the need of coming over from discussions and quest for means of bringing about mankind's age-old dream -- universal and complete disarmament -- to the sphere of concrete policy. It is now for our partners at the many-sided Geneva negotiations to have their say.

BOGACHEV SAYS U.S. VIOLATING ARMS TALKS SECRECY

LD171256 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr [dateline as received] -- TASS observer on military affairs Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Washington representatives continue to violate the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space weapons, presenting the U.S. position at Geneva in a favorable light.

Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, stated at one of the House of Representatives subcommittees that the United States intends to observe secrecy about the progress of the discussions in Geneva and thereby "to provide the necessary atmosphere for eliminating differences" at the negotiations. However, literally a few minutes later, speaking to the same audience of congressmen, Adelman started to praise the "flexibility" of the U.S. delegation in Geneva, which, he assured them, had made amendments to its old proposals on medium-range nuclear weapons, supposedly directed at "lessening the concern" of the Soviet Union in relation to the new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

It is not possible authentically to confirm or deny Adelman's assertions about some kind of "modifications" to the U.S. stance on this issue, since the Soviet delegation in Geneva, as distinct from the American, is truly strictly observing the accord on nondivulgence of information on the talks. However, the continuing deployment of American nuclear missiles in the FRG, Belgium, and other NATO countries casts doubt on the sincerity of statements by the U.S. Administration about its readiness to "seek mutually acceptable solutions" in Geneva; and the violation by the U.S. side of the accord on the confidentiality of discussions on nuclear and space weapons refutes Washington's declaration of its desire for "maintaining the necessary atmosphere" at the talks.

STURUA CRITICIZES REAGAN'S 'BAD JOKE' ON GENEVA

PM171027 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Melor Sturua "Rejoinder": "Good News and Bad Jokes"]

[Text] People all over the world are waiting for good news from Geneva; all mankind is waiting for it, waiting and hoping. How natural are these hopes and expectations! In that Swiss city on the banks of the famous lake, talks of exceptional importance are being held -- the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms. The subject alone explains why Geneva is acting as a magnet for the world public's attention. The concise formula for these talks declares: Do not start an arms race in space, stop it on earth, and commence radical reductions of nuclear arms, with the ultimate goal of their complete elimination. That is the high standard for good news from Geneva!

The American atomic scientists publish a bulletin which has a drawing of a clock face on the front cover. The position of the hands in relation to midnight reflects, so to speak, the temperature of the international atmosphere. If things are hot, the hands come threateningly close to the figure 12. If there is detente, the hands are turned back. Geneva is often called the "capital of clocks," but the talks now taking place there are not simply measuring the time, but the imperative of the time. Our planet's future depends on their success: whether the future is to be or not to be, whether the hands of nuclear catastrophe can be turned back or whether the nuclear midnight will come, illuminated by the flares of "star wars."

THe subject matter of the Soviet-American talks in Geneva is sacred. It is among those matters and concepts which cannot be the subjects of mockery or idle jokes, to which banality cannot, should not be applied. You would think that was self-evident. But...

I full share the indignation of some of my American colleagues over a new anecdote now going the rounds in Washington. It goes: "There is good news from Geneva... My wife's watch is ready." The point is not so much the bad taste of this joke -- real wit is a gift from God -- as its authorship. It was started not by some ultrarectionary pamphleteer, but by U.S. President Ronald Reagan himself!

How instructive this bad joke is. If you think about it, it reflects the true stance of Washington, which makes no secret about its gambling on strength, on superior strength, in order to bend the rest of the world to America's will. In Washington, diplomacy and peace are literally subordinate to missiles and bombers. It is no accident that the very same gentlemen pushing the strategic arms programs through the U.S. Congress are at the same time conducting the talks in Geneva. They have a double yardstick, or, for the sake of stylistic uniformity, a double clock with different hands pointing in completely the opposite directions. We cannot help recalling the words from M.S. Gorbachev's conversation with a PRAVDA editor: "They speak of defense, but prepare for attack; they advertise a space shield, but forge a space sword; they promise to eliminate nuclear weapons, but in practice they build them up and improve them; they promise the world stability, but they work toward wrecking the military equilibrium."

For mankind, which is groaning under the pressure of the arms race and the threat of nuclear catastrophe, good news from Geneva is equivalent to a clear sky overhead. You can still tell the time by the stars, but "star wars" is synonymous with a destructive time of troubles. It is bad to joke about that. Those people in Washington who are fond of bad jokes should think about that seriously.

U.S. FACES CRISIS IN NATO AFTER SDI 'ULTIMATUM'

LD180917 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1845 GMT 17 Apr 85

[From "The World Today" program presented by Vladimir Dunayev]

[Text] Washington sets the same time limit on all its ultimatums -- 60 days. The ultimatum to the Government of Nicaragua has a 60-day time limit, and the NATO allies have also been given the same 60-day period to consider, and to agree to participate in, the U.S. star wars project. But that's blackmail! expostulated Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a West German politician of great experience, and FRG foreign affairs minister.

This is potentially the most acute crisis in the entire history of NATO, declared British Admiral James Eberle, recently a NATO commander, who has become director of London's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Referring to NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the admiral considers that the U.S. project for a 5-year, $26 billion study in the sphere of star wars will inevitably lead to a political crisis in the U.S. Administration's relations with its allies, at least its West European allies. If the outlines of an agreement begin to appear at the Geneva talks; if Western Europe sees the prospect of a significant reduction in th level of nuclear confrontation, and if this turns out to be in jeopardy, thanks to Washington's obstinacy over its star wars project, passions may grow so heated within NATO that the squabbles about deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles will seem an amicable drinking party in comparison.

IZVESTIYA'S FALIN MUSES ON SDI ISSUE, PART II

PM171016 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 5

[Second and final part of series by IZVESTIYA political observer Valentin Falin: "Fact and Fancy"]

[Text] In the mid-seventies Washington was again plagued by doubts -- was it selling itself too cheaply by swearing allegiance to peaceful coexistence, equality and identical security, and the primacy of reason over force? The transatlantic politicians would sooner admit to being behind in the muscle stakes than in the intellectual stakes. Their lack of self-confidence is usually manifested in suspicion of others, but suspicion really poisons relations. In an atmosphere of distrust talks come to a standstill and treaties that have been signed are put on ice.

While the SALT II treaty was waiting in vain for ratification, the decisions popped up to dispatch Pershing II and cruise missiles to Western Europe, set up a "rapid deployment" force, and establish a 5-year arms-upgrading program for the United States whose implementation, it was expressly stipulated, would not depend on any disarmament agreements. There were Carter's options for "updating" the U.S. military potential, "building down arsenals," and making the content and pace of arms control talks subject to U.S. arms race plans and schedules.

In short, the militarist money-box inherited by R. Reagan was full to bursting. More missiles, aircraft, and ships is good, but, as far as the new White House chief was concerned, it was too long and too much trouble to wait for quantity to change into a different quality. It would not be a bad idea to change the quality of the actual military political thinking. What does that mean? It means discarding amorphous concepts of world peace and the vague notion of universal well-being. The United States is looking after number one. The rest get what's left over. Itis they, the rest, who have to peacefully coexist with Washington and seek its confidence and respect, and the Americans are strong enough to be able to despise other people's resentment or admiration and manage without compromise or familiarity. A state is not brother to another state, but a rival or enemy unless it puts on the harness and takes up its proper place in the team. So it was and so it always will be, This philosophy is called neoconservatism.

The Soviet-American treaty on limiting ABM systems was one of the agreements the neoconservatives doomed, like the mammoth, to extinction, but before the official ceremony to announce the "star wars" program, as the antithesis to the ABM treaty, something had to be finished. Imagine if the idea of "impregnable defenses" had been put forward in January 1981. The question would have immediately arisen in NATO: Why send new U.S. missiles to NATO if, in a few years' time, these weapons, according to Washington's scenario, will not be worth a plug nickel? A similar question might have been asked in spring 1983 after the announcement of the course of space militarization.

It did crop up, but the situation had changed: The missiles had been made, U.S. personnel had already arrived in the FRG, Britain, and Italy to receive them, and Bonn, London, and Rome had been well and truly tied hand and foot.

Playing safe, they called the "star wars" concept "defense," but not the antediluvian type, where aircraft confronts aircraft, ship is drawn up against ship, and missile against missile, but "universal" defense, intended to remove forever people's desire to wage war. They even tried to portray it as a step in the direction of the antiwar movements. You wanted the spiral of military rivalry to stop, they say, Washington is giving you the chance. The Pershing and cruise missiles do not count, they were a step that had to be taken to gain the time required for the military revolution which will pave the way for eternal peace. References to the effect that the space militarization program was purely "scientific research" were supposed to give the project a semblance of solidity, to emphasize the earnestness of the "lofty intentions."

Certainly, they had to gain time. Note that they started talking about the consequences of the research, and not exactly at the top of their voice, only after U.S. missiles had been stationed in Western Europe. It was then that they started looking for another term to replace the phrase "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI). The term "shield" sounds pretty good, but what kind of shield? "Impenetrable"? There is no duty levied on a pack of lies, but it only takes an overly generous sprinkling of salt for even a blind merchant to be able to see what's going on. "All-embracing"!? Not very good either -- you can't embrace the unembraceable. "Reliable"? That's more like it, although there could be a problem there too. What they decided was: not to promise anything definite and even hint that the idea of extensive "defense" could collapse before it floats off into the heavens. In passing, they give the assurance that the hard-won knowledge and experience will not go to waste, but will come in useful one way or another. The trump card is that allegedly around 90 percent of the work planned within the context of SDI will also have a civil use, so the program is virtually a "civil" program. The principle is: You fancy an article and the mind will accommodate that fancy.

The gentle approach is deliberate. Gradually the spectrum of research and the emphasis in the development work have shifted somewhat. It is no longer some kind of specifically "defensive" technology at the center, but new military technology in general, and not in lieu of present technology, but in addition to it. The antimissile element is there, but it is not preeminent. The continuous umbrella has been rolled up. It is offensive systems that are again passing for "universally reliable" and, therefore, irreplaceable systems. It is stressed that irrespective of the outcome of the research and experiments, the policy of "deterrence," that is, the use of offensive armaments, will still form the core of U.S. military doctrines. The multi-tier SDI is found to have a multiple bottom.

What confirms this conclusion? In the first place, revelations by the President himself and his intimates. They make no secret of the fact that the work that is silently getting under way within the context of the "initiative" is by no means bound to end in a way that reflects its original purpose. You don't get money out of Congress on an off chance. It is not the kind of situation where you act first and think later. That can happen in politics, but not too often and not with the profligacy we are seeing today. Second, "since Christmas a number of government officials, including Defense Secretary C. Weinberger...have made it clear that SDI is something more than a scientific research program and that, moreover, it is final and irrevocable," the British paper THE SUNDAY TIMES wrote on 24 March 1985. In fact, it is unthinkable not to believe in the feasibility of the project, and at the same time, stick to it unswervingly. Apparently, not everything was announced.

Third Washington's acceleration of the "modernization" of offensive nuclear and nonnuclear armaments with emphasis on first-strike systems and technology which makes it difficult to combat those selfsame missiles, aircraft, and combat satellites. Fourth, mounting evidence that the antimissile complexes in space are to have the capability to deliver a direct strike against small targets on land and on water. Fifth, the advocates of the confrontation course are particularly satisfied by the fact that the fundamentally new detection, guidance, and strike equipment ordered from science and industry can be used for both defensive and offensive purposes and that, irrespective of whether it is finally decided to create an extensive ABM system or not and without waiting for the decision, it will make it possible to significantly increase the strike capability of existing nuclear and nonnuclear armaments, and not just increase it. The side that has this supertechnology first will have enormous military advantages over other states.

To all appearances, what we are faced with is not some academic "defense" research but entirely pragmatic efforts to create a new generation of means of warfare. Manuals are already being put together for these weapons. In 1984 the Americans issued "for official use" an "aerospace doctrine" which notes, in part: "The U.S. Air Force is pursuing a policy which envisages securing superiority in space." It goes on to say that "the Air Force will maintain U.S. technical superiority in the aerospace sphere and ensure a potential for lengthy hostilities by creating facilities for conducting combat operations in space" since space provides unlimited potential and opportunities for military operations." This, I repeat, is formulated not for propaganda, nor to win applause, but in earnest -- "for official use."

But what about that defense? Overtly persistent simpletons, seeking the truth, are beginning to annoy administration figures. In response to the question of what one can expect in relation to operational and tactical missiles in Europe, C. Weinberger retorted the other day: "Tactical missiles are something quite different. They are battlefield weapons and the SDI does not involve these missiles, just as it does not involve aircraft." Highly instructive, bombers account for more than half of the explosive power of nuclear warheads in the United States. The proportion of cruise missiles, which Washington does not include in the strategic forces, is constantly increasing. When you consider all this, the implications of the secretary's argument become absolutely clear.

It seems that, as far as the United States is concerned, the ABM system is not even a method of making its own ground-based strategic missile positions secure. A system for protecting missile bases on U.S. territory would be a desirable adjunct, of course, to the first-strike potential, but this is very much a side issue. The crucial element is the search for a reliable method of "neutralizing" Soviet ground missiles which form the basis of the USSR's military potential. The possession of effective technology for combating this class of armaments would be the same as actually increasing the U.S. offensive potential several times over. Washington would not feel too wary about using nuclear weapons in theaters of war and on the battlefield, as they are fond of saying, and about trying out, in appropriate circumstances, the "Airland Battle 2000" doctrine or the concept of a deep strike against all the Warsaw Pact countries' combat echelons. For "self-defense" reasons, of course.

All in all, readiness to attack remains the best "defense," and the talks about "defense" -- strategic in particular -- is the best cover for the improvement of methods and means of attack. What could be more perfect than bases suspended directly about someone else's head? To avoid disqualifications as peace-lover they turned the sword of Damocles, with a flourish of the pen, into the "shield of Damocles." What if we were all to forget that since ancient times "to set one's shield against someone" has been one way of declaring war?

If the picture were different the Washington "researchers" would not miss the chance to investigate. Maybe the key to the problems of peace on earth has gotten lost in space, in the depths of the oceans, or in missile silos. Insatiable militarism is yearning for superlethal projectiles and charges. To achieve stability it is necessary first of all to stop the arms race. That includes all arms -- offensive and defensive, strategic and nonstrategic, nuclear and non-nuclear, ground, sea and aerospace. This is both more reliable and much more economical if you are thinking about general security and not something else.

That's the trouble -- it does not suit the United States. A few days ago Secretary of State G. Shultz confirmed his loyalty to H. Truman's behest. Peace "has always been based on strength; justice, goodwill and deeds are not enough." Where there is strength there is force, and where there is force there is war. If nothing else, Washington understands this perfectly, which is why it tends to be a loafer [shatun] in politics. That's where the aggressive U.S. doctrines come from, prompting the requests for unprecedented armaments whose development comes, in the state budgets and in official propaganda, under the modest heading "research."

NEW EDITION OF DISARMAMENT BROCHURE PUBLISHED

PM171108 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Current Problems"]

[Text] The PRAVDA Publishing House has published the fifth edition of the brochure "Disarmament -- Call of the Times." As in previous editions it gathers together documents and materials devoted to the problems of the struggle against the arms race and for disarmament and the people's peace and security. The brochure includes speeches by Soviet leaders, official documents, and editorial articles published in PRAVDA between August 1984 and March 1985.

The brochure has been published in a mass print run.

LATE REPORT: NUCLEAR ARMS GROUP MEETS IN GENEVA

LD181151 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Geneva April 18 TASS -- The group on intermediate-range nuclear armaments held a session here today within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space armaments.

PRAVDA ON CEMA MACHINE-BUILDING PANEL SESSION

PM171244 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "CEMA Committee Session"]

[Text] The second session of the CEMA Committee on Cooperation in the Machine-Building sphere was held in Moscow 11-12 April.

Participating in the session were: O. Doynov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the BCP Central Committee and Bulgarian minister of machine building; L. Marothy, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers; Do Muoi, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers; G. Kleiber, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and GDR minister of general engineering, agricultural machinery, and vehicle building; P. Miret, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers; C. Suren, deputy chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers; Z. Szalajda, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers; N. Constantin, member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and deputy prime minister of the Romanian Government; A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and CSSR Deputy Premier L. Gerle.

R. Pavlovic, member of the SFRY Federal Executive Council and chairman of the Federal Committee for Energy and Industry, participated in the committee session.

A draft general agreement on multilateral cooperation in the development and organization of the specialized and collaborative production of flexible production systems for machine building and in their broad introduction into the CEMA countries' national economies -- an agreement prepared in accordance with the decisions of the CEMA countries' economic summit conference and the resolution of the council session -- was examined and agreed upon.

The committee's work plan for 1985-1986 and proposals on priority problems of the CEMA countries' cooperation in the machine-building sphere were approved.

Organizational and other questions of the CEMA countries' cooperation in the machine-building sphere were examined during the committee session. The committee session was held in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding, and constructive comradely cooperation.

GDR DEFENSE MINISTER CITED ON WARSAW PACT ROLE

PM171234 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Apr 85 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Important Landmark"]

[Text] Berlin, 13 Apr -- The growing military threat from NATO 3 decades ago required the socialist states to pool their political and military efforts, Army General H. Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense, writes in the journal EINHEIT, the SED Central Committee theoretical organ, on the 30th anniversary of the conclusion of the Warsaw Pact. The creation of the fraternal countries' defensive alliance, he emphasizes, was an important landmark in the struggle of our parties and states for security in Europe.

The past 3 decades have proved that the socialist community countries are consistent champions of the policy of peaceful coexistence and vigilant defenders of socialism's gains and our peoples' security. The Warsaw Pact organization has honorably weathered trials under the most complex international conditions, is helping to strengthen the socialist countries' unity and cohesion, and is increasing their positive influence on international politics. The might and cohesion of the community of socialist states are of decisive significance for curbing imperialism's aggressive forces and ensuring mankind's peaceful future.

For GDR National People's Army servicemen, combat fraternity with the USSR Armed Forces and the armies of the other Warsaw Pact states is the living embodiment of proletarian internationalism, Army General H. Hoffmann points out. These are relations of a new type, being an organic part of the fraternal cooperation of the socialist states and their peoples.

PRAVDA ON WESTERN SUMMIT MEETING IN BONN

LD180618 Moscow TASS in English 0552 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 18 TASS -- "Intensive preparations have been started in the capitals of the seven major industrial countries of the West for a summit meeting scheduled to be held in Bonn early in May. Theoretically, the agenda of that meeting of presidents and prime ministers from seven countries, will be the same as at all the preceding summit meetings, the newspaper PRAVDA points out. The participants in the meeting are expected to devote their main attention to the burning problems of the economic situation in the capitalist world. But this is only theoretically. While in practice at the three latest meetings in Versailles, Williamsburg and London, the United States delegation invariably succeeded in shifting the centre of discussions from the economic to the political and military strategic side. In exchange for the vague promises to do something for slashing the budget deficits of the USA or settling the problem of the artifically inflated dollar rate, Washington literally wrested from the allies support for its dangerous militaristic plans, albeit the latter met them with doubt and put forward serious reservations".

It looks like a manoeuvre of this kind is being contemplated now too. Referring to West European and Japanese newspapers, PRAVDA points out that the allies of the USA in Bonn will be offered to approve in some form Washington's "star wars" programme. A draft statement is being prepared to confirm the determination of fight against "international terrorism". This would mean support for the policy of the USA directed at suppressing the national liberation movements.

The newspaper stresses in that connection that the "SPD group in the West German Bundestag is sounding alarm about that. It is planning to make an inquiry to the government, warning that the participants in the meeting in Bonn may divert from the long ripe economic issues and go into a discussion of the problems, which are not expected to be taken up now."

"It is too early yet to predict how they in the Western capitals will treat the attempts of the United States at bringing at the meeting of the seven crude pressure on its allies again. But unofficial reports in the press are expressing alarm over a fresh act of diktat being prepared by Washington now", the newspaper PRAVDA writes in conclusion.

MORE ON REAGAN'S UPCOMING VISIT TO FRG

Levin Comments

LD172236 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 17 Apr 85

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Sergey Pravdin; with commentator Viktor Levin]

[Text] Reports from Washington say that U.S. President Reagan has announced his intention to visit one of the former Nazi concentration camps during his trip to the FRG in May. At the same time, Reagan said that he did not relinquish his plans to visit a cemetery in Bitburg, where servicemen of the Nazi Wehrmacht and also SS-men are buried. I have asked my colleague Viktor Levin to tell us about this scandalous story in more detail.

[Levin] The story has indeed turned out to be scandalous. When it was announced that during his forthcoming visit to the FRG President Reagan intended to lay a wreath on Nazi soldiers' graves, a storm of indignation rose literally throughout the world. The White House decision was criticized, and it was criticized with highly sharp expressions, by American war veterans and representatives of other social groups. It also caused astonishment on the part of wide circles of the FRG population. For example, the FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU newspaper, objecting to White House arguments justifying the decision to visit the Bitburg cemetery, wrote that it was absolutely incomprehensible why recalling the victims of the Nazi terror and the racial madness of that time could be prejudicial against the FRG and the United States. Or was it, asked the paper reasonably, that the tendency in both countries to distort history or altogether rewrite it has become so significant that leading political figures decided to follow it?

The FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU places the responsibility for the adopted decision on both the United States and the FRG. The paper is absolutely right. The White House openly related that the suggestion to visit the cemetery in Bitburg originated from FRG Chancellor Kohl. Once the scandal flared up and the U.S. Administration began to dodge the fire of sharp criticism, Chancellor Kohl sent President Reagan a letter in which, as the DPA agency reports, he requested the master of the White House not to give up his wreath-laying on the graves in Bitburg. As can be judged from cables from Washington, this time too President Reagan has agreed with the head of the West German Government.

The impression is created that the White House now is trying to find a solution which, in its opinion, could satisfy both those who had advised the visit the Nazi servicemen's cemetery and those who justly see it as blasphemy against those who fell in battle against the Nazi hordes. It has been announced that on Monday two high-ranking White House officials are departing for the FRG in order to, as the President's official representative for press liaison, Speakes, put it, study possibilities for the President's participation in other events in the FRG. Judging from hints, these events mean a visit to a concentration camp, of which the President himself speaks.

Yet, let us pose a question. If the U.S. President visits a former concentration camp and honors the memory of the Nazi victims there, will the laying of a wreath on SS-men's graves become less cynical and less blasphemous? Of course not. Any attempt to put the Nazi aggressors and murderers on a par with their victims and martyrs gives rise to angry protest and just indignation. President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl say that they are striving not to open old wounds. Washington maintains that they do not want to hurt the Germans' feelings, but in my view, the White House is inflicting an insult on the Germans by putting an equals sign between the Nazis and the German people.

That is, by the way, how the issue is interpreted in the GDR and that is how it is interpreted by the FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU newspaper quoted above. It is not at all a question of striving not to open wounds; it is a question of something different. An attempt is being made to whitewash the Nazi aggressors and butchers. Mankind's conscience will not resign itself to that.

Deaver To Correct Itinerary

LD180655 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 17 Apr 85

[From "The World Today" program presented by Vladimir Dunayev]

[Text] Michael Deaver, one of President Reagan's closest advisers, has flown from Washington to West Germany. Although he is leaving the White House in May, Michael Deaver nevertheless organized the program for the President's visit to Western Europe. His hasty departure for Bonn is being linked with attempts at somehow correcting at the last minute President Reagan's planned visits and speeches in the FRG which caused such protests and indignation in Bonn. Although Reagan does not at all intend to abandon the wreath-laying at Bitburg cemetery -- this is the cemetery where Nazi soldiers, including SS members, are buried -- he has asked Deaver to pick out some former Hitlerite concentration camp or other for him, for the sake of balance, so to speak. The cynicism of Washington's politicians in relation to the 40th anniversary of the victory is truly limitless.

PRAVDA'S ZHUKOV HITS 'NEW U.S. MILITARY ELITE'

PM171028 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[Article by PRAVDA political observer Yuriy Zhukov: "What Are They Learning and From Whom?"]

[Text] It is reported from Washington that the itinerary of President R. Reagan's trip to Europe in early May has now been worked out. The itinerary, in particular, envisages the following: 5 May, 1000, departure from Bonn; 1050, arrival in Bitburg; wreath-laying ceremony at German military cemetery; church service at the base; picnic with American servicemen from the base taking part; speeches by Kohl and Reagan; joint military ceremony.

Thus, the U.S. President has nevertheless decided, despite storms of protest from American and West European war veterans, to honor on the eve of victory day the memory of Nazi soldiers, including SS men who, as the American television company CBS has reported, "took part in massacres of Americans" during the Wehrmacht's Ardennes offensive in 1944. (As is well known, 77,000 American soldiers died during those battles and the American troops found themselves in a criticial situation; only the Soviet offensive quickly launched in the east at Churchill's request saved the Anglo-American allies from catastrophe.)

Washington is very clumsily attempting to justify the President's political gesture, which is viewed by war veterans in the United States and other countries which were members of the antifascist coalition as an insult to the memory of the tens of millions who died in the struggle against the fascist aggressors. The world public's indignation was intensified by the fact that the President has simultaneously refused to pay homage to the memory of the inmates of Hitler's Dachau concentration camp, since the proposed visit there would not have been to the FRG Government's liking.

How then is one to explain such astonishing decisions by the U.S. President?

Washington makes no secret of the fact that these decisions accord with the interests of the Pentagon, which regards the present-day FRG Bundeswehr as its main military ally, and, moreover, considers it necessary to make use of the experience and traditions of its predecessor -- Hitler's Wehrmacht.

Not so long ago the American magazine NEWSWEEK conducted an extensive investigation of the feelings, mentality, and plans of the senior U.S. officer crops, to the enhancement of whose combat readiness the Pentagon is now attaching particular significance.

A "special report" published by this magazine entitled "The New Warriors" was based on information provided by a poll of 257 generals and admirals from all four branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. According to the authors of the report, the military chiefs questioned constitute "more than one-fourth of the top commanders at present on active service." They stress that the poll results make it possible to form a "picture of the contemporary military thinking" of "America's military elite."

"This brotherhood is united by a strict vow to encounter danger and death anytime, anywhere," NEWSWEEK writes. "The significance of this vow has scarcely ever been more topical than now, since in the shadow of a nuclear war beyond the imagination of mankind there is a need for bold and capable people."

Those taking part in the investigation published by NEWSWEEK note that the "new warriors" are now engaged in shaping a new "military thinking," revising the methods and aims of the war for which they are persistently preparing. What disturbs the American generals and admirals is the fact that in the last 40 years the U.S. Armed Forces have failed to win a single military victory, unless you count two dubious, albeit widely publicized, operations: The rescue of the crew of the small reconnaissance ship [Mayaguez] off the Cambodian coast in 1975 and the aggressive invasion of the tiny island of Grenada at the end of 1983.

In the fifties the American troops who invaded the DPRK were routed and escaped by the skin of their teeth. They then suffered an ignominious defeat in Vietnam from which they have not yet recovered. The attempted raid on Tehran to free the U.S. Embassy staff taken hostage by the Iranians was a shameful failure. Later the American landing forces had to clear out of Lebanon with nothing to show for their pains.

Drawing lessons from these defeats, the "new American military elite" is now looking to see whom it can learn from. As emerges from the data collected by the investigators, the Pentagon strategists, who are now "revising and updating their methods," have decided to learn from Hitler's Wehrmacht.

The Pentagon has for many years sighed nostalgically over the words of the late American General Patton, who unashamedly said during World War II that the United States was wrong to unite with the USSR to combat Hitler's Germany. In his opinion, it would have been better if the United States had fought with Germany against the USSR. Even not so long ago, present-day American generals and admirals did not dare say such things in public, but since the President gave them the task of waging a "global struggle against communism," to use NEWSWEEK's expression, thay have been openly saying that it is high time the United States took on board the experience of Hitler's Wehrmacht.

Although, according to the poll, only 26 percent of American generals and admirals are "worried by the possibility of a Soviet attack in Europe, American strategists are training their Armed Forces for a war precisely on the territory of Europe.

"There is certainty that a large confrontation between the USSR and the United States will take place," Colonel William L. Hauser, author of the book "The American Army in Crisis," stated. "Irrespective of where the conflict starts, it will inevitably spread to Europe and be concentrated there." So now the Pentagon is adopting the pose of pupil of the creators of Hitler's blitzkrieg plans. Cheering themselves by citing how marvelously the "blitzkrieg" succeeded in Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, and France, the American generals try not to recall how the Wehrmacht's notorious "lightning" war ended for Hitler's Germany when it flagrantly invaded our country. According to William Lind, military adviser to Senator G. Hart, the U.S. Armed Forces are fostering a style of "combat operations emulating Genghis Khan, the German blitzkrieg, and almost all the Israeli military campaigns" as a model for military operations today.

No, there is no slip of the pen: The military state of Israel, together with Genghis Khan's hordes and Hitler's Wehrmacht, now serves as a model for the Pentagon. It is no accident that the works of the Israeli military historian Martin Van (Kreveld), who claims that the "German campaigns in France, Russia, and North Africa were a model of military art," are now in favor there. This Israeli military historian even ventures to criticize his Washington bosses: He states that "America's military leaders (in command of American troops in World War II) were poorly trained, soft (!), and, on the whole, worse than mediocre." Eisenhower and Marshall would certainly turn in their graves to hear such an assessment from an Israeli!

Washington is glad that the German generals in the FRG "have made a number of efforts to revive traditions" and that the "study by officers of the experience of the Nazis' military campaigns is being encouraged in every possible way" there; moreover, military historians "are writing that the Nazi generals constantly surpassed the Russians in mobility" (totally incomprehensible, since they were routed and could not even defend Berlin. -- Yu. Zh.).

According to NEWSWEEK, the "fashion" for admiring Wehrmacht strategy is quite far advanced in the United States. A "young Marine lieutenant who commanded the first reconnaissance platoon to land on Grenada" is held up as an example to all. He, you see, is "studying German" so as to be able to study Wehrmacht monographs more thoroughly. The social awareness of American officers and even members of officer's families living in military camps, which have their own stores and clubs, is being appropriately molded. They have virtually no contact with the outside world, and this helps to mold the ethos of a military caste.

"A career officer," NEWSWEEK writes, "quickly becomes part of the large isolated (!) military family. For over 20 years of service he and his family will change posts seven or eight times, but he will always live on a military base. He regards the civilians who live outside it with suspicion. Both the officer and the members of his family are educated in an ethos of 'military culture.'"

The concept of "military culture" includes a real cult of the personality of military leaders. I am not thinking just of Eisenhower, Marshall, Patton, or MacArthur, who have practically acquired the status of saints; retired Vietnam war generals like Westmoreland, for example, are also being energetically boosted. Generals still on active service like Lieutenant General Alfred M. Gray, commander of Marine forces in the Atlantic, who puts on propaganda shows like one described by NEWSWEEK, are being glorified today.

"Lieutenant General Alfred M. Gray," NEWSWEEK writes, "inspects the soldiers, claps a private on the shoulder, and greets a gunner with a wave of the hand. His helmet pulled down over his eyes, Gray stops by a jeep, steadily chewing tobacco, as a salute is fired in his honor (!). 'There is no such thing as a battlefield filled with people,' he says to the officers during an off-the-cuff speech. 'A battlefield is a lonely place.'

"The helicopter motor starts up and Gray continues on his way. This dazzling spectacle is typical of his style." Why is Gray being praised? The reason is that he "has spent more time on battlefields than any other general: 2 years in Korea and 5 years in Vietnam -- at his own request." These are the kind of generals that the Pentagon needs!

Here is another Pentagon idol: General Walter F. Ulmer, commander of the III Army Corps. He also fought in Vietnam and now trains his corps at Fort Hood. In the event of war breaking out in Europe, he and his 38,000 men will be immediately transferred to the front -- they are kept in constant "full readiness" for this.

It is now more important than ever to double and even triple the efforts of all the sensible people struggling against these very dangerous and vindictive "new warriors" in America who are actively preparing new blitzkriegs before the eyes of the whole world.

MILITARY HIDES SPENDING IN OTHER AGENCY BUDGETS

LD172154 Moscow TASS in English 2111 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev writes:

According to an estimate made by an American research organisation -- Budget and Political Priorities Centre -- the Reagan administration's total military spending in the current fiscal year will amount not to 292.9 billion dollars, as has been allocated from the budget to the Pentagon, but 376 billion dollars, much of which is concealed under the heading of allocations for other departments and agencies. This will still further increase the Reagan administration's already huge budget deficit and exceeded 213 billion dollars already this year.

The present administration makes intensive use of the method of camouflaging additional military allocations by including them in the budgets of various non-military agencies. Thus, the military budget articles of the seemingly very civilian Department of Energy amount this year to 7.3 billion dollars. This money is spent on the production of nuclear warheads, shells and even neutron weapons. According to the Washington Information Centre on Military Problems, the U.S. Administration's "neutron program" alone will cost the American tax payers 2.5 billion dollars.

Big allocations for military needs are earmarked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other agencies. The military spending of the United States will reach 414 billion dollars already in the 1986 fiscal year and 569 billion dollars by 1990.

What are these astronomical sums spent on? First of all on strengthening and increasing the first nuclear strike weapons belonging to the so called "nuclear triad". These are nuclear missiles, strategic bombers with nuclear weapons aboard and submarines with nuclear missiles. Recently President Reagan got from Congress 1.5 billion dollars to build a second batch (21) of MX strategic ballistic missiles. In all Washington intends to have 200 MX missiles of the "nuclear triad". Scientists have estimated that the yield of one MX missile is equal to the yield of all explosives used during the Second World War. This means that just with the MX missiles the White House wants to have at its disposal the destructive potential of 200 world wars. Such are the aims of the United States Administration!

But even this, it turns out, is not enough. The Reagan administration has now started the fulfilment of its "star wars" program that is being presented as President Reagan's "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI).

It will cost American tax payers 26 billion dollars and is intended exclusively for the militarisation of outer space. By means of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" the United States wants to achieve military superiority and the possibility to deliver the first nuclear strike. And although Secretary of Defense Weinberger and a number of other officials contend that the "SDI" supposedly is a "research program" directed at studying methods and means of creating an "absolute defense", the former admitted in an interview to the French weekly FIGARO MAGAZINE that new technical achievements will be extensively used within the framework of the "SDI", including for combat and increasing the accuracy of strikes at the enemy.

All this taken together -- the unprecedented increase of military spending and attempts to utilise outer space for military purposes -- shows that under the guise of "defensive" weapons the United States wants to ensure for itself the possibility to deliver a first strike with impunity, this creating a real danger of a global nuclear conflict.

REAGAN ADDRESSES NICARAGUAN 'TERRORIST' GATHERING

LD171737 Moscow TASS in English 1711 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- TASS commentator Vladimir Shekhovtsov writes: President Reagan has again resorted to rude remarks against Nicaragua in an attempt to justify the policy of brigandage and state terrorism pursued by the United States in respect of that sovereign Central American country.

Addressing a gathering of ringleaders of Somocista terrorist formations the head of the White House demanded that the United States Congress allocate new millions of dollars to aid the "contras" who are perpetrating bloody crimes against the Nicaraguan people. The President threatened the legislators that should they vote against this request of the administration this would be a "vote against peace".

It goes without saying that the American President who cynically calls the counter-revolutionary scum "fighters for democracy" chose to sidestep the fact that the bands of mercenaries are formed from among Somoza's former "national guardsmen", the very same who had destroyed more than 50,000 peaceful Nicaraguan citizens when "defending guardsmen" tortured raped, killed and threw into the crater of a live volcano absolutely innocent people on the slightest suspicion of "ties with the Sandinistas". After the dictatorship has been overthrown their "work" has remained the same. They only went into the employ of a new master and became mercenaries of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States.

In the period from 1981 to 1985 they killed almost 8,000 peaceful people in Nicaragua, among them 3,500 juveniles. They orphaned 6,500 children. The bandits herded a quarter of a million of Nicaraguans from their homes. They destroyed about 400 schools, more than 100 peasant cooperatives and 40 hospitals. And it is these terrorists, rapists and murderers that the President of the United States shamelessly and for a long time already calls "freedom fighters". More than that, he even tried to present them as "participants in the Nicaraguan revolution". To listen to the President it comes out that the revolution in Nicaragua was accomplished by the very same Somocistas who had fled the country under the blows of the Nicaraguan people that rose in rebellion against the pro-American tyranny.

The entire speech of the United States President was abundantly laced with brazen slander against the Nicaraguan Government's home and foreign policy.

He advertised in every way his "peace plan" for Central America which even in the United States is called a "dirty political trick" and "a screen for aggression" against Nicaragua. Pressing for new dollar handouts to the Somocista cutthroats the President left no doubt about the plans of suppressing the Nicaraguan revolution by force of arms that are being harbored by Washington. THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote that Nicaragua is like a bone in Reagan's throat and his aim is to overthrow the Sandinista government. It should be expected, the paper continued, that there will be increasingly more exaggerations, misinformation and demagogy in his speeches on this question.

U.S., ISRAEL TO PRODUCE COMBAT HARDWARE JOINTLY

LD181022 Moscow TASS in English 0748 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Amman April 18 TASS -- The United States and Israel have agreed to pool efforts to develop and manufacture new combat hardware for naval forces, U.S. Secretary of the Navy John Lehman, who is visiting Israel, announced after his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The agreement provides for developing and producing new missiles, submarines and patrol boats. Covering a term of several years, the project is estimated at more than one billion dollars. The deal will be fulfilled in the framework of U.S. military aid to Israel.

It is a further step in consolidating the militarist alliance of Washington and Tel Aviv which creates a direct threat to the security of Middle Eastern states.

'DISCOVERY' CREW UNABLE TO REVIVE SATELLITE

LD180131 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] New York April 17 TASS -- The attempts by the crew of the "Discovery" space shuttle to revive the "Leasat-3" (Syncom-4-3) communications satellite have ended in failure. Using a manipulator they tried twice to switch on the satellite's power supply in order to ensure the functioning of its onboard systems, in particular the engine to place the satellite on a stationary orbit. As reported by the American AP and UPI news agencies, further operations to revive the satellite have been suspended on instructions of mission control. The crew was ordered to move away from the satellite and start preparations for return to earth. As reported by the CNN television company, the satellite will stay in its present orbit until it enters dense layers of the atmosphere and burns out.

The satellite was to be used by the United States Navy for communication with ships, aircraft and military installations. After being separated from the space [word indistinct] the satellite did not fulfil even one of the planned operations and became a worthless object.

DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUES USSR VISIT

PRAVDA on Talks With Gromyko

PM180956 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] Talks took place in the Kremlin April between Andrey Gromyko, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Kim Yong-nam, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, deputy premier of the Administration Council, and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who is on an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

In an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the sides discussed questions of bilateral relations and topical international problems of mutual interest.

They noted with satisfaction the dynamic and fruitful development of multifaceted cooperation between the USSR and People's Korea in keeping with the accords reached at the Soviet-Korean summit talks in Moscow in May 1984.

The sides spoke in favor of continued energetic joint efforts to improve and expand relations of friendship between the two countries on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and in the spirit of their Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance.

The participants in the talks were unanimous in agreeing that the present-day situation in Europe, the Far East, and all over the world remains complex and sometimes even tense because of the imperialist circles' policy of confrontation and arms buildup. In this situation, increasing importance is attached to the proposals of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for improving the international climate and strengthening peace.

Kim Yong-nam supported on behalf of the leadership of People's Korea the constructive and consistent line of the USSR at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva.

Serious concern was voiced over developments in the Asian and Pacific region, leading toward the establishment there of a front of opposition to the socialist countries' policy of peace, and also toward the militarization of Japan.

The purposeful initiatives of the USSR, People's Korea, Mongolia, and the Indochinese socialist countries, the sides believe, constitute a realistic alternative to the arms buildup and to the practice of cobbling together all sorts of militarist groupings in Asia and the Pacific. The alliance of the USSR and People's Korea, sealed by their bilateral treaty, is an important stabilizing factor.

The Soviet side emphasized its readiness to consistently and energetically support the struggle of People's Korea for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and removal of nuclear weapons from South Korea. Solidarity was also reiterated with the proposals of People's Korea for lessening tension on the Korean peninsula and for the peaceful unification of the country on a democratic basis.

The two sides emphasized the historical importance of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism and the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Korea. They displayed resolve to mark those anniversaries with redoubled efforts for stronger peace in Europe and Asia and all over the world on the basis of the strict observance and respect by all countries for the political and territorial realities that emerged as a result of World War II and that were formalized by international accords.

The two sides expressed their confidence that the talks between them will contribute to the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and People's Korea and to their collaboration on the international scene.

Andrey Gromyko and Kim Yong-nam signed a treaty on the state border between the Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a consular convention between the USSR and People's Korea.

On the same day Andrey Gromyko gave a luncheon in honor of Kim Yong-nam, at which the two ministers exchanged friendly speeches. The luncheon was attended by Konstantin Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Soviet ministers, and other officials.

Holds Press Conference

LD172132 Moscow TASS in English 1954 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- The danger of a nuclear war exists not only in Europe but in Asia as well, Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administrative Council, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), stated at a press conference for Soviet and Korean journalists at the Moscow press centre today.

At present South Korea constitutes not only a colony but has long become a veritable U.S. nuclear advanced post. Kim Yong-nam recalled that the United States has deployed a thousand units of nuclear weapons and is now deploying cruise missiles, "Pershing-2" missiles, and even neutron weapons in the south of the Korean peninsula. About fifty F-16 nuclear-capable fighter bombers are stationed there.

The Korean minister emphasised that the DPRK supports the Soviet Union's peaceful Leninist policy and measures to prevent a nuclear war.

The Government of the DPRK has put forward many proposals with a view to removing the threat of a nuclear war. Recently the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK sent a "letter to the parliament of South Korea" which contains a proposal to start parliamentary talks with the aims of easing tension in Korea and creating prerequisites for a dialogue between the North and the South and for a peaceful reunification of the country.

As a practical measure, it is suggested that the question of adopting a joint declaration on non-attack between the North and the South be discussed.

The proposals may contribute to the cause of preserving and strengthening peace in Asia and throughout the world, Kim Yong-nam stressed.

In the Second World War, the minister pointed out, the Soviet Army played an immense role in the defeat of German fascism and Japanese militarism. Nowadays the imperialists, and first of all U.S. ones, try to belittle the Soviet Union's role in the past war and to distort history. But they will not manage to do that.

Our people, preparing to mark the 40th anniversary of liberation, highly appreciate the role of the Soviet Army and the Soviet people, Kim Yong-nam stated.

The DPRK's minister of foreign affairs pointed out that Soviet-Korean cooperation gains in strength and scope in all spheres -- political, economic, and cultural. Our current visit, he said in conclusion, is of big importance for the strengthening and development of fraternal friendship between our two countries and peoples.

Received by Gorbache

LD180707 Moscow TASS in English 0703 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 18 TASS -- General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev received in the Kremlin today member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Deputy Premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Yong-nam.

Kim Yong-nam handed over to Mikhail Gorbachev a personal message from General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, President of the DPRK Kim Il-song.

During the conversation the sides exchanged views on issues of the further development of bilateral relations of friendship and on topical problems of international life of common interest.

The mutual conviction was expressed that the consolidation of ties between the two parties, the deepening of all-round Soviet-Korean cooperation on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism meet the vital interests of the peoples of both countries, the interests of peace and security in the Far East. The importance of the DPRK's new initiative for lessening tensions in the Korean peninsula was stressed.

Departs Moscow on Tour

LD181345 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow April 18 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Deputy Premier of the Administrative Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Foreign Minister of the DPRK Kim Yong-nam, now in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government, today left Moscow for a tour of the country.

In the airport he was seen off by member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister of the USSR Andrey Gromyko, other officials.

AFGHANISTAN LODGES PROTESTS WITH PAKISTAN

Border 'Aggression'

PM171042 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Afghanistan: Despite Warnings"]

[Text] Kabul, 14 Apr -- The BAKHTAR agency has reported that the Pakistani charge d'affaires has been summoned to the DRA Foreign Ministry, where he was told that, despite repeated warnings from the Afghan authorities, Pakistani military border subunits are continuing armed provocations against population centers on Afghan territory.

During the 25 days from 15 March through 10 April, the Barikowt region (Konarha Province) was shelled 13 times, as a result of which Afghan women and children were killed and serious material damage caused to residential buildings. The DRA angrily condemns acts of aggression by border subunits of Pakistani troops, the arming of gangs of counter-revolutionaries, and their infiltration onto DRA territory and issues a resolute protest to the Pakistani authorities in this connection. The Pakistani authorities, the protest points out, must immediately cease the acts of aggression and interference which have seriously exacerbated the situation on the border between the two countries.

Airspace Violation

PM171109 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 85 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Protest Issued"]

[Text] Kabul, 15 Apr -- The Pakistani charge d'affaires in the DRA has been summoned to the Afghan Foreign Ministry, where he received a sharp protest in connection with violation of DRA airspace by the Pakistani Air Force. According to a BAKHTAR report, a Pakistani Air Force plane violated DRA airspace in the region of Towr Kham (Nangarhar Province) on 12 April.

The Afghan authorities, the agency report stresses, are issuing a resolute protest to Pakistan and demanding that these acts of aggression cease. Otherwise, total responsibility for their consequences will lie with the Pakistani side.

PROGRESS IN DRA SINCE APRIL REVOLUTION DISCUSSED

LD172246 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 17 Apr 85

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Sergey Pravdin]

[Text] The Afghan people and all their many friends abroad are preparing to mark Afghanistan's national holiday -- the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution. Our correspondent Boris Savodyan talks about the changes that are taking place in the country:

Today it would be difficult even to imagine what Afghanistan was like before the revolution. Only 1 out of 10 Afghans could read and write. The child mortality rate reached 50 percent. Most Afghans' living conditions remained the same as centuries ago.

The April Revolution put an end to all that. It gave the Afghan people the right to control their destiny. The people's power transferred the land into the hands of those who work it -- the Afghan peasants. In the years immediately following the victory of the revolution, a nationwide campaign to eradicate illiteracy began in the country. Doors of schools and other educational establishments opened to the children of the working people.

The April Revolution was accomplished under the leadership of the PDPA. When it came to power 7 years ago, there were 18,000 people in its ranks. Now, 130,000 people are PDPA members and candidate members. Through the United National Patriotic Front [as heard] broad masses of the working people are drawn into participation in social and political life, and the management of production.

The Afghan people are defending their right to independence and freedom under difficult conditions. However, although they have enemies, they have significantly more friends. The most active assistance in constructing the new life and defending it against imperialism's encroachment is provided to the Afghan people by the Soviet Union. More than 100 major national economy establishments have been built or are being built with USSR aid.

COMMENTARY VIEWS 'SQUABBLE' AMONG AFGHAN REBELS

LD172314 Moscow World Service in English 1431 GMT 17 Apr 85

[News analyst Lev Nikolayev commentary]

[Text] The mass media in the West have announced several times before mention of a united front of Afghan counterrevolutionary groups, but as a rule, such a front didn't exist for more than a year. One after another the different organizations and alliances of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries fell apart. Why is it that the Afghan counterrevolution is unable to attain even a semblance of unity despite the large-scale support and financial and material assistance of Washington?

It's well known that the war against Afghanistan is being conducted by the counterrevolutionaries under the motto of a sacred war for their faith and the bandits call themselves defenders of the Islam. But that of course has nothing to do with reality, and judge for yourself. The so-called fighters for the faith have destroyed in Afghanistan hundreds of mosques, hospitals and first-aid stations in the villages. They have leveled to the ground 1,800 school buildings and killed hundreds of teachers, who used to teach the children to read and write, encouraged by the Koran. The bandits ruined 900 farm cooperatives, and all this was done for a certain money reward. The counterrevolutionaries have special pay-rates for each act of terror performed on the territory of Afghanistan.

Nor do the bandits have any scruples when it comes to outright looting or smuggling narcotics. The bandits are simply mercenaries of the international reactionaries. That was how Abdul Wahed, who only recently was a band leader himself, described his men at a news conference in Kabul. It is only selfishness and greed for money they are after, he said. One of the leaders of the disintegrated seven-party alliance, Nasrollah Mansur, has accused of sabotage his former counterpart, Hikmatyar and other Afghan counterrevolutionaries. Nor can Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, who calls himself a descendant of Mohammed the Prophet and Abdul Rasul Hayyat, the chairman of the Islamic Union, come to terms. Observing the squabble among the leaders, the rank-and-file members of the bands begin to doubt more and more about the objectives of their struggle against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. They begin to realize that the band leaders, while proclaiming lofty slogans about the struggle for their faith, in reality are struggling not only to get the dollars they are supplied by their Western supporters, but there's also another more important reason for disillusionment.

The rank-and-file members of the bands can't but see the positive changes that are taking place in Afghanistan. They also see that Islam in their country doesn't have to be defended. It's not accidental, therefore, that more and more of the deceived and intimidated people are laying down arms and going over to the side of the revolution. Only recently over 1,000 men from two counterrevolutionary groups surrendered to the Afghan security forces. As for those who still hope for the defeat of the Afghan revolution, for the return of their former privileges, who seek to get rich through the hand-outs of the West, through plunder and murder, they remain in the camp of the counterrevolutionaries, and it's they who are called bandits in Afghanistan.

INDIAN GROUP SAID VIOLATING STATE SECURITY LAWS

LD171409 Moscow TASS in English 1322 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] New Delhi April 17 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko reports:

The Indian Government has charged the association of voluntary agricultural development agencies with violation of legislation on guarding state secrets, the newspaper PATRIOT reported today.

The association has links with Western missionary organisations which, according to the local press, are often used as fronts for spy agencies.

The activities of the association, it has turned out, had nothing in common with the efforts to boost farm production in India. Pretending to be conducting studies, the association compiled maps of restricted areas which were of interest to Western secret services and smuggled them out of the country. For instance, the association gave a West German missionary organisation more than 20 detailed maps of restricted areas in Nagaland and Kerala, and received about two million rupees for its services.

The maps which were smuggled to the West, the governmental commission of inquiry into the activities of the association says in its conclusion, contain information about India's defence potential, communications and lines of supply which bear upon the state security interests.

Addressing the conference of inspector generals of the Indian police, Interior Minister Shankarrao Bhaorao Chavan stressed that India had become a target of intensive spying activities.

DEMICHEV, DELEGATION CONTINUE VISIT TO POLAND

Jaruzelski, Demichev Meet

PM171319 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet Culture Days in Poland"]

[Text] Warsaw, 16 Apr -- W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, today received P. N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture, who is here as head of a delegation of personalities in Soviet culture in connection with the USSR Culture Days in Poland.

During the talks, which passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere, questions of the state of and further deepening of multifaceted Soviet-Polish cooperation and the further development of cultural ties were touched on. It was noted with satisfaction that increasingly close, fruitful, businesslike contacts are being established between creative organizations and the artistic intelligentsia. They serve the noble cause of spiritual mutual enrichment and the strengthening of friendship and all-around cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and Poland.

It was stressed that the USSR Culture Days which have begun in the USSR are of special significance this year. They are taking place under the sign of remarkable anniversaries in our peoples' life -- the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism and the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Polish treaty.

Taking part in the meeting were W. Swirgon, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, K. Zygulski, Polish minister of culture and art, and A. N. Aksenov, USSR ambassador to Poland.

Meeting With Zygulski

LD180758 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] The envoys of the Soviet multinational arts -- participants in the USSR Days of Culture -- have been greeted as welcome guests on the Polish soil. Among the guests there is a delegation of Soviet cultural activists led by candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Minister of Culture Demichev. Today the head of the Soviet delegation had a meeting with the PPR Minister of Culture and Art Zygulski. Issues concerning the further strengthening and comprehensive development of the cultural links between the two countries were raised.

SFRY INVITES BLACK SEA FLEET SQUADRON TO VISIT

LD172205 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The SFRY Government has invited a squadron of the Black Sea Fleet, which plies the route of the combat glory of the Danube Combat Fleet, to pay an official and friendly visit to Yugoslavia. This squadron, under the command of Captain Muravyev, will arrive in Yugoslavia on 18 April. This is what Colonel Aleksandr Musatov, master of military sciences, writes in this context:

During the war, the Danube Fleet, along with battles, covered over 2,000 km from the mouth of the Danube to the Austrian town of Linz. It took part in significant offensives of the Red Army such as the Iasi-Kishinev, Belgrade, Budapest and Vienna offensives.

The fleet was mentioned 11 times in the orders of the supreme commander and was decorated with three combat orders. The fleet was solving important and complex combat tasks. It helped the land forces in the battles for the liberation of the countries through which the Danube flows. It took part in the battles for Belgrade, among other things, in the onslaught on Kalemegdan, the last fascist stronghold in the Yugoslav capital. For this operation one division of armored boats received the honorary title of "Belgrade" division. In their battles in Yugoslavia, the ships of the Danube Fleet carried across the river land forces and disembarked assault troops, thus ensuring the capture of important strongholds along the banks of the river.

At the end of October and at the beginning of November 1944 the ships of the fleet carried over the Danube in the direction of the Yugoslav-Hungarian border over 100,000 people as well as a large amount of arms and various types of cargo. The troops forced the Danube on 7 and 9 November on the Batina-Apatin route, occupied the stronghold on the right bank and from there began the offensive on the Hungarian territory. It was precisely in these battles on Yugoslav soil that our Danube sailors demonstrated a glorious example of preparing and disembarking assault troops. Colonel Musatov writes. Three assault units disembarked on the approaches to Belgrade, at Radujevac, Prahovo and Smederevo. The assault in Prahovo was particularly bold and sudden. Everything took place in daytime before the very eyes of the dumbfounded enemy.

In December 1944 two assault units of Marines disembarked in Ilok and in the area of Vukovar. The unit in Ilok withstood a grave battle. In 12 hours, the 50-sailor unit bravely opposed the considerably superior enemy. The unit fought until our land troops arrived which threw the enemy out of Ilok.

Among the participants of the onslaught was also the fearless medical nurse Kacha Mikhaylova. She was bandaging the wounded although she herself was wounded and with a submachine gun in her hands she was helping her comrades in repelling the enemy attacks. Our sailors also fought heroically in the Vukovar area. Among the 1,500 soldiers of the unit was also soldier and radio operator Agafonov. When a large group of machine gun carrying soldiers, backed up by seven-tanks, attacked the unit, Agafonov bravely went into battle. With a few grenades he halted an enemy tank, destroyed its crew and, taking with him a group of sailors, cut off the Germans from the remaining tanks. In this battle the enemy was defeated. Sergeant Agafonov was given the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union.

In addition to constant battles, the Danube Fleet also took part in clearing mine fields. Mine-sweeping of the river made it possible for Soviet troops to maneuver and supply the population in the Danube area by the river. In clearing the river of mines the massive heroism of Soviet solders was also manifested as was their cooperation with teams of Yugoslav mine-sweepers and with the population.

Soviet soldiers who had excelled in particular in the battles for the freedom of Yugoslavia were decorated with orders and medals of the SFRY, while Commander Georgiy Ikhrimenko was given the title of the People's Hero of Yugoslavia.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS POPULATION GROWTH IN ALBANIA

PM171129 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Rapid Population Growth"]

[Text] One of the highest rates of natural population growth in Europe has been recorded in Albania.

In the 40 years since its liberation from the fascist occupiers, the number of inhabitants of the country has increased 160 percent, and in September 1984 it was over 2,914,000. In recent decades the average annual growth rate has been 2.5 percent. If this rate persists, by the year 2000 the population of Albania will be over 4 million.

TASS REPORTS ON AGRICULTURAL WORK IN ALBANIA

LD180958 Moscow TASS in English 1902 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Sofia April 17 TASS -- Spring work is in full swing on fields of state farms and agricultural cooperatives of Albania [as received].

A rise in grain production remains, just as in previous years, the main task of the country's agriculture. It is planned to increase the productivity of a number of industrial crops -- cotton, tobacco, sugar beet and vegetables.

In animal husbandry the main attention is paid to a rise in the head of cattle and cattle productivity, the build-up of the fodder basis. Work is to be carried out this year to improve highland pastures in order to promote the development of small cattle breeding.

CPSU DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR VIENNA 17 APR

LD180140 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1555 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow, 17 Apr (TASS -- A CPSU delegation headed by Gennadiy Sizov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, left Moscow for Vienna today at the invitation of the Austrian Communist Party Central Committee.

The delegation will take part in events held by the Austrian Communists on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Austria from fascism and 30th anniversary of signing the state treaty.

SOVIET-FINNISH TALKS ON ARMS HELD IN HELSINKI

LD171029 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0940 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Helsinki: 17 Apr (TASS) -- Soviet-Finnish political consultations have been held here on a wide range of issues related to preventing an arms race in space and ending it on earth, including the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The Soviet side was led by Vladimir Petrovskiy, member of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Finnish side by Sappo Pietinen, head of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. Vladimir Petrovskiy was received by Paavo Vayrynen, Finnish minister for foreign affairs.

SOVIET CONCERNS OVER AEGEAN PASSAGE RIGHTS VOICED

NC160835 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 9 Apr 85 pp 1, 4

[Report by Nur Batur]

[Excerpts] Ankara, (TERCUMAN) -- While the Turkish Government and other NATO countries worry about the possibility of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou undertaking an adventure in the Aegean, similar concern has been expressed by the Soviet Union. A Soviet source told TERCUMAN: "We categorically oppose any conflict in the Aegean. We also oppose eliminating the freedom of international waters."

Reports indicate that not only Ankara, but Moscow as well, has been carefully watching events develop since distinguished Greek statesman Konstantin Karamanlis was toppled and Papandreou's man Sartzetakis was elected president after a controversial election. According to a Soviet source, Moscow's new approach to the Aegean issue and to extending the limits of the Greek territorial waters to 12 miles, particularly following Karamanlis' removal from office, can be outlined as follows: "The Aegean is important to the Soviet Union. Soviet ships sail to the Mediterranean through the Straits and the Aegean. Currently this isdone without any hindrance. That is, Soviet ships can sail to the Mediterranean through international waters. The Soviet Union hopes that this status quo will continue. Otherwise, a situation undesirable to the Soviet Union would be created. Such a development would be categorically rejected by the Soviet Union. Moreover, the Soviet Union is opposed to any development that could lead to a conflict in the Aegean."

According to diplomatic observers, the Greek prime minister has sent a message to Moscow stating his willingness to sign an agreement with the Soviets which would give him the "green light" to extend the limits of Greek territorial waters to 12 miles. The message implies that the Soviet Union would be entitled to pass through the Aegean without hindrance. However, the Soviets have not responded to Papandreou's message. This is because if a rightist government were to replace Papandreou, it could cancel the Soviet Union's "right of free passage" through the Aegean, which is why the Soviet Union does not wish to risk the freedom to use international waters.

FURTHER COMMENT ON MURPHY'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

IZVESTIYA Report

PM171131 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Ye. Korshunov report: "Conciliation Plus Espionage"]

[Text] Beirut -- Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is touring the Near East again. His trip began with a visit to Jordan and the program also includes visits to Israel, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and possibly Lebanon.

The official purpose of the high-ranking U.S. representative's current trip is to "study the possibilities of unblocking the Near East crisis," or in other words to step up U.S. policy in the Near East and impose on the Arab peoples decisions that accord with Washington's imperialist designs and Tel Aviv's expansionist plan. R. Murphy has already repeatedly toured the Near Eastern countries, and each time his appearance here has been accompanied by an exacerbation of the situation and a whipping up of tension. The Syrian radio sharply criticizes the "capitulatory terms" that the United States seeks to impose on the Arab world. It is also reported that in the event that R. Murphy's mission succeeds, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Israel in May in order to reach agreement with Tel Aviv's representatives on concrete plans for joint U.S.-Israeli actions in the Near East.

It so happens that at the same time the Arab world has been presented with new evidence of the "peaceful concerns" of the United States. A pilotless spy plane came down near the Lebanese city of Ba'labakk (in the Al-Biqa' Valley). A study of the wreckage showed that it belonged to the U.S. Armed Forces. Specialists believe that the plane was launched either from a U.S. base in Turkey, or from one of the 6th Fleet aircraft carriers which are in the Mediterranean supposedly to defend U.S. vital interests in the Near East.

Murphy Arrives in Egypt

LD181112 Moscow TASS in English 0901 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo April 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Ratmir Orestov reports: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy has arrived in the Egyptian capital on the third leg of his foreign tour which has taken him to Jordan and Israel. The announced program of his visit to Egypt includes meetings with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid.

According to statements by American Administration officials, Murphy's visit is purely in the nature of making acquaintance with the situation. But local observers say that Washington's envoy has very concrete tasks. They are to revive the stalemated Camp David process and sound out possibilities for dragging also other Arab countries in separate deals with Tel Aviv.

It is not by chance that Murphy's arrival in Cairo coincided with the stay here of Ezer Weizman, a minister of the Israeli Government who was among the "architects" of the Camp David collusion and acts in full coordination with the U.S. Administration. The members of the American-Israeli alliance pursue the common goal of clearing the way for their new aggressive ventures in the Middle East.

LEBANON'S KARAMI TO HEAD CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

LD171721 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Beirut April 17 TASS -- Radio Lebanon has reported that Prime Minister Rashid Karami of Lebanon has given consent to head a caretaker government after he announced the resignation of his cabinet. The radio pointed out that Karami agreed to remain for the time being at the head of a caretaker government after consultations with President Amin al-Jumayyil.

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MEETS SOVIET ACADEMICIAN

LD180150 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Cario April 17 TASS -- Today President Husni Mubarak of Egypt received Academician Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences, who is in Cairo at the invitation of the Diplomatic Institute of the A.R.E. [Arab Republic of Egypt] Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Problems of the situation in the Middle East were touched upon during the conversation.

While in Egypt, Yevgeniy Primakov was received by Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the ARE's minister of foreign affairs, and U. al-Bazn, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, head of the political office of the president.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON BRUTENTS VISIT TO PDRY

For South Yemeni reportage on the visit of Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and his meetings with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and Yemeni Socialist Party officials see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 12-16 April Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT.

MOSCOW SOIREE MARKS SYRIAN NATIONAL DAY

PM171355 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading "Public Soirees"]

[Text] A public soiree was held in Moscow 15 April to mark Syria's national holiday -- Evacuation Day. It was noted in the speeches that relations between the USSR and Syria are strengthening and developing on the firm foundations of the Soviet-Syrian Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation in the interests of both countries' peoples. It was stressed that Soviet people invariably support the position of Syria, which opposes the intrigues of imperialism and Zionism in the struggle to establish a just and lasting peace in the Near East.

M.I. al-Habbal, Syrian charge d'affaires in the USSR, took part in the soiree.

Pastukhov Remarks

JN161642 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr (SANA) -- Comrade Nikolayevich Pastukhov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR-Syrian Friendship Society, has praised the Syrian people's struggle and their confrontation of all the imperialist plans under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Speaking at the celebration organized by the Friendship Society at its headquarters in Moscow on the 39th anniversary of the evacuation of the [French] colonialists from Syria, Comrade Patstukhov described the peace advocated by the United States in the area as a "peace of capitulation". He said that Syria is considered the pioneer of progress in the Arab arena. He referred to the importance of its policy on the Arab and international levels.

PRAVDA REPORTS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SUDAN

PM171100 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 85 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Peresada dispatch: "Situation in the Sudan"]

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr -- According to reports from Khartoum, the formation of the Sudanese transitional national-democratic government has come to a standstill. Talks on this question have been postponed owing to exacerbated differences of opinion. Taking part in the talks on the one side are delegates from the "Sudanese National Alliance" (SNA), which comprises the main parties and trade unions, and on the other side representatives of the military administration headed by General al-Dhahab.

On the whole, however, as Egypt's MENA news agency reports, fundamental agreement has been reached to the effect that candidates from the trade unions and political parties, the military, and a number of figures from the Sudan's southern provinces will form the government. In the words of SNA General Secretary A. Muhammad Ahmad, one of the government's main tasks will be to ensure the conditions for establishing constitutional forms of rule in the country.

In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES Gen al-Dhahab stated that despite the creation of the government executive power will stay in the hands of the military. In his words, the transitional period should last less than a year; however the military administration may retain control over the country after that "if circumstances warrant." He noted that in view of the Sudan's serious economic position, the policy of stringent economic measures will be continued. At the same time, it is planned to make changes in the provisions of the Islamic law introduced by the previous regime, which led to "irregularities" and "excessive punishments."

IRAN'S 'HOSTILE' STAND TOWARD DRA CONDEMNED

NC181030 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Igor Sheftunov commentary]

[Excerpts] BAKHTAR news agency announced in Afghanistan that four anti-Afghan counter-revolutionary groups have settled in Iran and, under the pretext of defending Islam, are intensifying their activities. Our commentator, Igor Sheftunov, writes:

The current escalation of activities by Afghan bandits, who have found refuge in neighboring Iran, is not accidental and is undoubtedly connected with the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution, which Afghanistan will celebrate in a few days. This revolution overthrew the then existing feudal regime once and for all and brought fundamental progressive reforms that benefit the people.

These reforms enraged not only the world's imperialists, primarily in the United States, but also the feudalists, landlords, and other reactionaries who profited from Afghanistan's backwardness and from oppressing the people to fill their own pockets. From the new Republic's inception, these reactionary forces have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to conduct an undeclared war against it. Counterrevolutionary groups are being formed, armed, and trained in more than 100 military camps in Pakistan. Similar camps have been established in Iran -- in Mashhad, Zahedan, Qom, Kerman, Yazd, and even in Tehran itself. Counterrevolutionary groups in Afghanistan have extorted more than 35 billion afghanis, and they have destroyed schools, hospitals, and mosques and have murdered defenseless people. Despite all of this, however, the Afghan people have foiled these aggressive plots and continue to successfully implement their progressive reforms.

Democratic Afghanistan, now involved in peaceful work and activity, continually advances peace-seeking initiatives designed to ensure normalization and good-neighborly relations with Pakistan and Iran. In May 1980 and again in August 1981, the Afghan Government proposed holding talks with Iran and Pakistan based on mutual respect and nonintervention in each other's affairs in order to achieve normal relations. So far, several rounds of talks have been conducted between Afghanistan and Pakistan by the UN secretary general's personal envoy. However, the Iranian Government not only did not reply to Afghanistan's proposal, it announced its opposition to the Afghanistan-Pakistan talks. Referring to this, BAKHTAR news agency noted that Iran's current stand toward Afghanistan is even more hostile than Pakistan's.

Various facts prove that in addition to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries residing in Iran, the Iranian officials themselves conduct armed provocations against their peace-loving neighbor.

For example, on 29 December a unit of Iran's border forces violated Afghan territory near the hamlet of Shorshoreh in Herat Province. Iranian forces also violated Afghan territory near Chahar Borjak in Nimruz Province and Iranian fighters have entered Afghan airspace. These provocations have enraged not only Afghans, but Iranians as well. This is only natural, since the victory of the April Revolution, which the imperialists and reactionaries are uselessly trying to stifle, made it possible for the Iranian people to overthrow the detested monarchy and end imperialist meddling in their country. The success of Democratic Afghanistan, which has been moving confidently toward independent progress and development and is seeking nonalignment and support for national liberation struggles, increases the Iranian people's ability to resist imperialist pressure to again allow them to plunder Iran. It is also natural that normalizing relations between Iran and Democratic Afghanistan -- the Soviet Union's friend -- would positively affect the expansion of good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and Iran based on mutual benefits and equality.

The escalation of tension around Afghanistan, and Iran's participation in the undeclared war against its peace-loving neighbor, benefits only the imperialists and the reactionaries, while normalization and a lasting regional peace are in the interests of all Asians. This was stressed during talks between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and DRA President Babrak Karmal in Moscow. During this meeting, they condemned the continuing foreign aggression against Afghanistan and stressed that it is the right of the Afghan people to run their own affairs. Mikhail Gorbachev and Babrak Karmal consider cessation of armed or any other type of intervention in the internal affairs of people's Afghanistan to be one of the primary conditions for the consolidation of Asia's peace and stability.

UN CHIEF'S REPORT ON IRAN-IRAQ TALKS CITED

PM171305 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Extinguishing the Flames of War"]

[Text] New York, 16 Apr -- UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has sent the Security Council a report on the results of his talks with Iranian and Iraqi leaders, during which there were "broad discussions on all aspects" of the conflict between the two countries. The conversations in Tehran and Baghdad showed that, although the two sides' position are still widely disparate, there is a real basis for continuing efforts with a view to bringing peace closer, the report says. I firmly believe, J. Perez de Cuellar noted, that with this aim in view the Security Council must invite Iran and Iraq to take part in a new study of all aspects of the conflict as a first step. It has being going on for more than 4 and 1/2 years now and its recent escalation has aggravated the already serious consequences as manifested in the death of people and the destruction of the physical resources of both sides.

During all the discussions in Baghdad and Tehran, the report notes, the representatives of both sides confirmed their desire for peace and their faith in the efforts being undertaken by the UN secretary general with this aim in view. [In a similar report Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN on 17 April 1985 carries here the following additional sentence: "At the same time it would be unrealistic to ignore the deep mistrust that unfortunately exists between the two sides."]

The UN secretary general called on the international community to undertake new efforts to study ways that could lead to the halting of the conflict and bring peace to the peoples of Iran and Iraq. He also voiced the hope that both governments will react positively to these efforts.

TASS CITES 17 APR IRAQI, IRANIAN BATTLE REPORTS

LD171504 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad April 17 TASS -- According to a communique of the High Military Command of Iraq, planes and helicopters of the Air Force in the past 24 hours flew 120 combat missions in the section "east of the Tigris River". Losses in manpower and materiel were inflicted upon the enemy. Anti-aircraft defence forces shot down an Iranian plane. On the same day Iraqi aviation hit a "major naval target" in the Persian Gulf not far from the Iranian island of Khark.

Iraqi artillery fired at Iranian positions in the area of east of Basra and in the Maysan sector.

The enemy artillery bombarded the Iraqi town of Mandali.

Nicosia April 17 TASS -- In the past 24 hours Iranian troops attacked enemy positions in the whole of the Iranian-Iraqi front, says a report of the news agency IRNA (Iran). Intensive artillery exchanges of fire took place in the areas of Sar Dasht, Marivan, Ilam, Bakhtaran. Iranian warplanes bombed infantry and artillery positions of the enemy in the southern section of the front.

Iraqi aviation air raided the Iranian frontier town of Bostan.

SOUTH AFRICA TO CREATE BASE IN CAPRIVI STRIP

LD171645 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Lusaka April 17 TASS -- The racist Pretoria regime is harbouring plans of partitioning Namibia. It was stated by the President of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) Sam Nujoma. The ringleaders of the state of apartheid, he told a press conference here, intend to turn the Caprivi Strip into a pseudo-independent bantustan. Even the so-called "transitional government", which the racists intend to knock together in Namibia in June, will have no right to control that area.

The apartheid regime plans to create a big military base in the Caprivi Strip, the SWAPO president said. The strip is of much strategic importance and will be used by Pretoria as a springboard for aggression against neighboring countries -- Angola, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Already now Pretoria spends two million dollars a day on the upkeep of the occupation army in Namibia.

The much-publicised statements by South African rulers about the impending withdrawal of troops from the southern areas of Angola are also directed at perpetuating colonial domination in Namibia. The racists intend to build up their massive military presence in Namibia by concentrating troops at bases along the borders with Angola. At the same time, with the help of this trick Pretoria wants to divert the world public's attention from its attempts to unilaterally proclaim Namibia's "independence" and circumvent the United Nations plan on the decolonisation of that country, the SWAPO president pointed out.

SWAPO, Sam Nujoma stressed, resolutely rejects South Africa's plans to bantustanise Namibia. The Namibian patriots are stepping up armed struggle against the occupationists and inflicting heavy losses on them.

SWAPO OFFICIAL, ANATOLIY GROMYKO ADDRESS MEETING

LD180957 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A festive meeting of the learned Council of the Africa Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, devoted to the 25th anniversary of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] of Namibia, was held in Moscow today.

Anatoliy Andreyevich Gromyko, the director of the Africa Institute and deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, confirmed the Soviet people's solidarity with the heroic struggle for Namibia's freedom which is being waged by the country's patriotic forces under SWAPO's leadership.

Toivo Ja Toivo, SWAPO general secretary, who spoke at the meeting, told of the growth of the liberation struggle in Namibia, and expressed cordial gratitude to the Soviet people for the multifaceted aid and support for Namibian patriots.

SERGEYCHIK MEETS MOZAMBIQUE PLANNING MINISTER

PM171329 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A talk took place 15 April between M.A. Sergeychik, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and G.K. Zhuravlev, first deputy minister of foreign trade, and M. Machungo, member of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party Central Committee Politburo and Mozambique minister of planning, on questions of the development of trade and economic cooperation between the USSR and Mozambique.

M. Machungo is in Moscow as head of the Mozambique delegation to the third session of the Soviet-Mozambique intergovernmental commission on economic and technical cooperation and trade.

H. Patricio, Mozambique ambassador to the USSR, took part in the talk.

GHANAIAN DELEGATION VISITS USSR 3-15 APRIL

PM171110 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Guests From Ghana"]

[Text] A delegation from Ghana's Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) headed by Ebow Tawiah, member of the PNDC, was in the Soviet Union 3-15 April.

The delegation was received at the CPSU Central Committee Party Organization Work and International Departments, at the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Ties With Foreign Countries, and at the Soviet Peace Committee. Apart from Moscow the delegation visited the Kirgiz SSR. Meetings were held at the Kirgiz Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Trade Unions. The Ghanaian guests visited industrial and agricultural enterprises in Frunze City and Osh Oblast. The delegation members made a high assessment of the achievements in the USSR's social and economic development and advocated the further strengthening of Soviet-Ghanaian cooperation.

GORBACHEV MEETS WITH PROLETARSKIY WORKERS

PM180958 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 85 Second Edition p 1

[Text] The working people of Moscow, just as the entire Soviet people, are working hard to fulfill the assignments of the concluding year of the 5-year plan period, striving to meet worthily the 27th party congress. The General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev was told this by Muscovites during his meeting with working people of the Soviet capital's Proletarskiy District on April 16 and 17.

Concentrated here, in the very heart of industrial Moscow, are many big industrial enterprises, among them such giants as the Likhachev Auto Works, the head enterprise of the ZIL Production Association, the "Dynamo" Electrical Engineering Plant named after Kirov, the Moscow Ship-Building and Ship-Repair Plant, the Thermal Power Station No 9, the "Raduga" Ready-to-Wear Clothes Association and many other enterprises, associations, and research institutes whose products and research are well known throughout the country.

The question of raising the role of party organizations in mobilizing work collectives to the successful attainment of the tasks of intensifying production and raising the quality of output was discussed with members of the Bureau of the Proletarskiy District CPSU Committee. Much attention was given to the fulfillment of the plans of social and economic development of the 11th 5-Year Plan period. Under the guidance of party organization the district's work collectives are successfully fulfilling production assignments and fulfilling the comprehensive program of scientific and technological progress. Topical social problems -- the course of housing construction, the performance of enterprises, trade establishments, transport and medical institutions -- were studied in detail. When the future was discussed attention was drawn to internal reserves and the importance was stressed of utilizing the experience of the comprehensive approach to the solution of problems.

Mikhail Gorbachev visited the building and production shops of the Likhachev plant, spoke with people at their work places, showed detailed interest in their working and living conditions. The prospects of the association's development, questions of accelerating scientific and technological progress, the need to reach the highest world levels of labor productivity and quality of motor vehicles were discussed. Much attention was given to the development and production of new models of motor vehicles with a diesel engine that ensures a substantial economy of fuel.

The automotive workers spoke about the problems that are being solved by the collective in the course of the large-scale reconstruction. The participants in the conversations exchanged views on questions of production management and perfecting the economic mechanism.

The ZIL workers and specialists spoke about the reserves of their enterprise, about the need to further perfect work organization and work incentives, and to improve ties with suppliers of components. The laws of socialist society, the moral and material incentives should be constantly directed at strengthening labor discipline, reducing labor turnover, at conducting an effective struggle against a slack attitude to work. It was proposed, in particular, to introduce wage extras for industrial workers continuously working at one enterprise. This would result in a stabilization of work collectives, encourage personnel to stay and facilitate a noticeable growth of their qualification.

A meeting with representatives of the work collectives of the enterprise was held at the assembly production shop. The speakers stated their resolve to step up their labor activity, to make a big contribution to the strengthening of the country's economic and defense might, to the technical progress of the national economy, and to accelerating its switch to the road of intensive development.

Addressing those present, Mikhail Gorbachev said that the party, true to the Leninist tradition, constantly takes counsel with the people. Society is now faced with great tasks to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development. It is important to multiply efforts with a view to developing production and raising the quality of output. A big contribution to that should be made by the work collectives. When tackling the problems of intensification, one should see to it that enterprises function more rhythmically and that technological, planning and labor discipline are more strictly observed. On large-scale equipment modernization it is essential to more boldly lay down such solutions in the projects that would ensure a fundamental upward change in labor productivity.

Mikhail Gorbachev called on the personnel of the assembly plant to more widely use economic incentives to intensify production, to show creative initiative, and to develop independence in solving major technical and organizational problems.

The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee spoke of the peaceful foreign policy course pursued by the party and the Soviet state. He wholeheartedly congratulated the automotive workers on the forthcoming May Day holiday and the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War and wished them new labor accomplishments, health and happiness, and voiced confidence that the automotive workers, just like all Soviet prople, will mark the Leninist communist subbotnick with enhanced work.

Mikhail Gorbachev visited Nagatino, a large and rapidly growing residential development area of the district. In School No 514 during conversations with teachers, some practical matters connected with the implementation of the reform of secondary education were touched upon. They concerned, in particular, the preparation of new study programs, education through work, and the use of computers in the instructional process. In classrooms and workshops, there were conversations with schoolchildren about their studies, work, and choice of future professions.

In one of self-service shops of the district, Mikhail Gorbachev acquainted himself with how trade is organized. He conversed with customers about the satisfaction of their requirements, and took interest in suggestions as to how to improve the service.

During a visit to City Hospital No 53, conversation drifted to problems that are foremost in the minds of medical personnel and patients. Questions of provision of medical institutions with up-to-date equipment and medicines, and of remuneration for physicians and other medical personnel were raised. Possibilities for improving medical service and patients' care were spoken of.

During the tour of the district Mikhail Gorbachev was invited by a young family of the Nikishins -- Tamara, a builder, and Vyacheslav, a worker of the chief Moscow Motor Transportation Directorate. They showed him their flat, related how they live and work, and shared plans for the future.

Viktor Grishin, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU; L.A. Borisov, secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom; V.F. Promyslov, Moscow Gorispolkom chairman; B.N. Polyakov, automotive industry minister; A.F. Korchagin, first secretary of Proletarskiy CPSU Raykom; and A.A. Nikitin, chairman of Proletarskiy Rayispolkom were present at the meetings in the Proletarskiy district together with Mikhail Gorbachev.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VIEWS ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

PM181130 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 85 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] A session of the USSR Council of Ministers took place on 17 April. The session heard and discussed reports by N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan, and V.V. Dementsev, USSR first deputy minister of finance, on the results of the fulfillment of the state plan for the USSR's economic development and the USSR state budget in the first quarter of 1985.

A new step forward was taken in the development of the country's economy and in raising the people's living standards as a result of Soviet people's high labor and political activeness, the widespread socialist competition for a fitting welcome to the 27th CPSU Congress and the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, and the extensive organizational work by party, soviet, and economic organs and despite certain difficulties that emerged in a number of national economic sectors under the harsh winter conditions.

Industrial output growth in January-March 1985 in comparison with the first quarter of last year was 2 percent. The plan for industrial output sales was fulfilled 100.7 percent on the whole.

The plan for state purchases of basic livestock products set for the first quarter of 1985 was overfulfilled, and this made it possible to improve the supply of these products to the population. The cattle and poultry population increased. Spring field work has started in many parts of the country.

Fixed assets to a total value of R13.4 billion financed by state capital investment were commissioned, and this is 5 percent more than in the first quarter of last year.

The average monthly wages of workers and employees increased by 2 percent in comparison with the first quarter of 1984, retail trade turnover increased 2.3 percent, and the volume of consumer service sales to the population increased 4.6 percent. A large quantity of housing, schools, hospitals, and other projects for social and everyday life purposes were commissioned.

In terms of revenue the USSR state budget was fulfilled 100.2 percent in the first quarter. At the same time it was noted at the session that the results of work by individual sectors of the national economy in the first quarter of 1985, and mainly and mainly in January-February, cannot be deemed satisfactory. As a result of disorganization, at times complacency, and even irresponsibility in places, and particularly during the preparation for work under winter conditions, a deterioration was allowed to occur in the production activity of many power stations, railroads, and enterprises in the petroleum, coal, and chemical industry, ferrous metallurgy, and several other sectors. A considerable number of enterprises failed to make full use of production capacities or to ensure the fulfillment of plans for the production of output according to the product list and of contractual obligations for the delivery of this output.

A number of ministries underfulfilled their targets for labor productivity growth, commissioning of fixed assets, reduction of the prime cost of output and work, profits and budget payments, and retail trade turnover.

The USSR Council of Ministers has instructed USSR ministers and leaders of departments and union republic councils of ministers to thoroughly analyze the performance of associations, enterprises, and organizations under their jurisdiction in the first quarter of 1985 and, guided by the decisions of the 26th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee March (1985) Plenum and the instructions given at the 8 April meeting in the CPSU Central Committee, to elaborate and implement measures to eliminate as soon as possible the shortcomings that have been allowed to occur and to mobilize all existing reserves so that labor collectives may fulfill their socialist pledges and successfully complete the 1985 plan and the 5-year plan as a whole. Attention was particularly drawn to the need to ensure the national economy's transition to the intensive path of development.

It was furthermore suggested that attention be focused on the following tasks: making up in the second and subsequent quarters for the underfulfillment of targets allowed to occur since the beginning of the year in the production and delivery of output, the transportation of freight, the development of science and technology, capital construction, and labor productivity growth; raising the technological standard and quality of output produced in all sectors; stepping up the policy of thrift, ensuring the rational and efficient use of material, labor, and financial resources, and eliminating losses and unproductive expenditure; comprehensively strengthening state, plan, labor, and technological discipline, introducing financial autonomy more actively, and enhancing responsibility and organization in all sectors of the national economy.

Union republic councils of ministers and also the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, the USSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Farming, the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, the USSR Ministry of the Food Industry, and the USSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture have been instructed to ensure the expeditious completion of spring field work to high quality standards.

The Ministry of Railways has been ordered to take effective measures in conjunction with USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers to improve the work of railroads and industrial railroad transporation and ensure the unconditional transportation of national economic freight envisaged by the plan.

Union republic councils of ministers, USSR ministries and departments, and the Tsentrosoyuz have been instructed to take additional steps to boost consumer goods output and the volume of services rendered to the population.

V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and N.I. Ryzhkov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the work of the USSR Council of Ministers session.

N.A. Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, delivered a speech at the session.

AFP: CPSU CONGRESS REPORTED PLANNED FOR FEB 86

AU181014 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Moscow, April 18 (AFP) -- The 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party has been put back until February 1986, apparently to give Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev time to consolidate his power, informed sources said here.

The late Konstantin Chernenko had planned to hold the congress, the Communist Party's supreme organ, later this year -- three months earlier than scheduled -- to allow his conservative policies to be adopted according to diplomatic sources.

Analysts said that Mr Gorbachev, who at 54 is the Soviet Union's youngest leader since Lenin, aimed to strengthen his own position by placing his nominees in key jobs before the congress takes place. The last congress was presided by Leonid Brezhnev in February 1981. The congress, which is held every five years, elects a Central Committee, which in turn forms the ruling Politburo.

SUPREME COURT PLENUM ON SUBSTANDARD PRODUCTION

LD171837 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] A plenum of the USSR Supreme Court has taken place in Moscow. A number of questions were examined at the plenum that have important significance in the solution of national economic and other tasks. This is what Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Smolentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, told our correspondent Tamara Karetnikova.

[Begin Smolentsev recording] Strict observations of the law is an important guarantee of the fulfillment of the tasks of communist construction. Precise fulfillment of laws has enormous significance in the sphere of production and the economy. Take, for example, the question of product quality. Seeing the improvement of product quality as one of the most important of present-day economic tasks, the party and the Soviet state are taking large-scale measures. Consequently, up to 4,000 new types of machines, instruments, and means of automation are produced in our country every year, while about 160,000 units of equipment are modernized. Tens of thousands of types of goods are given the high quality mark. This is good and the Soviet people rightly prides itself on such great and very real achievements.

However, something else is also known. We still have many enterprises in industry, agriculture, and trade with produce and market low-quality products, which do not meet today's requirements, and which are a cause of customer dissatisfaction. In many cases such products inflict direct damage on production as a whole and on individual Soviet people. Here are but a few examples. In 1984 one third of color televisions sold were repaired under guarantee. Enterprises of the Ministry of the Electronics Industry consequently have to produce tens of thousands of expensive kinescopes and other units extra in order to meet the needs of such repairs.

Buyers have many criticisms of certain types of refrigerators, tape-recorders, watches, material, clothing and footwear, cultural and domestic goods, and foodstuffs. Last year the Chayka Sewing Association in Tula Oblast failed to market R7 million worth of badly sewn coats. Naturally the state cannot fail to react fittingly to such flagrant cases of bad management. Those responsible for them must be dealt with in the most rigorous manner. Meanwhile, the study carried out by the USSR Supreme Court that despite a direct order of the law those responsible for production of poor-quality, below-standard and incomplete products are far from everywhere being brought to account.

Having examined this question the Supreme Court plenum adopted a decision pointing out to courts that criminal and administrative accountability for production of goods of improper quality as envisaged by the law must be invariably put into force. Directors, chief engineers, and other officials guilty of this are held accountable. At the same time it was stressed in particular that the production of defective goods cannot be justified by references to the use of low-quality raw materials or assembly components supplied by other enterprises. Managers of those other enterprises are independently accountable. Every guilty person must be dealt with in relation to his share of the guilt. This applies fully to the managers of trade enterprises too. Their accountability for putting on sale low-quality goods ensues regardless of whether the goods come from the enterprise in that state, or whether they are spoiled in the shops themselves, in the trade centers or warehouses.

The actual putting on sale of such goods is in itself criminally punishable. The decision also reprints in detail all ways of satisfying the justified claims of buyers, from the replacement of an unfit article to complete financial compensation for damage sustained.

The Supreme Court plenum also settled a number of questions linked to compensation for material damage inflicted on kolkhozes, intercollective, and state collective farm enterprises through the supply of poor quality agricultural machinery, fertilizer, through poor quality repair of tractors, vehicles, combine harvesters, and equipment. The Supreme Court plenum also examined a number of important questions of the application by courts of criminal and criminal work legislation. Particular attention was focused on the need to use all legal means to prevent drunkenness and alcoholism, which frequently give rise to crimes. The court should consider a crime committed in a state of drunkenness or with the aim of subsequent drunkenness to have an aggravating factor of accountability.

Severe punitive measures should be taken against persons involving the underage in drinking. The Supreme Soviet focuses particular attention on this. Considerable attention was focused at the plenum on an examination of the question of the state of work done by courts in the examination of citizens' complaints. An attentive and objective examination of complaints and applications by citizens, the implementation by the higher courts of inspection into the validity of courts' decisions serves as an important means of eliminating and preventing judicial mistakes, as a guarantee of the observation of the law, as a protection of the interests of society, the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The decision of the plenum notes that oblast and supreme courts are carrying out a great deal of useful work in examining complaints and applications by citizens. At the same time, this side of judicial activity needs further improvement. Therefore, courts have been giving the corresponding recommendations aimed at eliminating shortcomings existing in this sphere. [end recording]

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 17 April 1985 also reports Smolentsev's remarks on the USSR Supreme Court plenum, adding: "The Supreme Court plenum examined many other questions, primarily those connected with further strengthening legality and purging our life of alien phenomena and of any encroachments on the interests of society and its citizens."]

GRISHIN WRITES ON MOSCOW GORKOM CADRE WORK

PM171141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 85 First Edition p 2

[Article by V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom: "Cadres Decide the Success of the Matter"]

[Text] In all its activity the Communist Party seeks a clear understanding and consistent, well-organized implementation of the CPSU's strategic line elaborated at its 26th congress and in the decisions of subsequent Central Committee plenums. "This," the CPSU Central Committee Extraordinary March (1985) Plenum noted, "is the line toward the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development and the improvement of all aspects of society's life. It is a case of transforming the material-technical base of production. It is a case of improving the system of social relations, above all economic relations. It is a case of developing man himself, of effecting a qualitative improvement to his living and working conditions and spiritual countenance."

Incorporating this clear strategic line in specific economic policy decisions, bringing to the masses the thrust of the unprecedentedly large-scale and complex tasks facing the country, organizing and directing common labor toward their effective solution -- that is the vocation of our cadres, of party, soviet, and economic leaders of all ranks and levels.

It is for this reason that we say that cadres decide the success of the matter. It is for this reason that at the present stage of our society's development the party pays such close attention to questions of cadres policy -- to the selection, placement, and education of cadres and the growth of their professional competence, political maturity, initiative, and responsibility for the matter in hand.

This avenue is also a central one in the work of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and the capital's entire party organization, which unites over 1.1 million Communists in its ranks. Cadres questions are regularly examined at plenums and party gorkom and raykom bureau sessions, and in primary party organizations. The city party organization's tasks in further improving work with cadres and the shortcomings that still exist in this important matter were thoroughly examined at a party gorkom plenum in December 1984.

The purposeful organizational and political work with cadres performed by the city party organizations helps the successful implementation of the party's policy, the improvement of the standard of leadership of economic and social processes, and the working people's mobilization to the fulfillment and overfulfillment of state plan targets and socialist pledges. For virtually three 5-year plans in succession (including the first 4 years of the 5-year plan) the important national economic tasks facing the capital's economy have been fulfilled ahead of schedule. The production of commodity output has increased 80 percent compared with 1970 and the entire increase in production volumes has been obtained through labor productivity growth. There has been a considerable increase in the volumes of shipments in transport and a large volume of work has been performed in construction and in all sectors of the municipal economy and services for the population.

Those are the results of the stage we have travelled. However, ahead the working people of the capital and the city party organization are faced with new tasks, even more extensive and complex. The standard of education and qualifications and ideological training of the workers who bear the brunt of the solution of these tasks largely determine the success of the matter.

It may be said that in this respect Moscow has quite a good base for further headway. Presently over 70 percent of the city's working people have secondary and higher education. The standard of training of the capital's scientific cadres is high. Over half the scientific personnel of the USSR Academy of Sciences are concentrated in Moscow's research institutes and laboratories and nearly 35 percent of all doctors of sciences and 30 percent of all candidates of sciences work here. The practical return from the capital's scientific research institutes and design and planning organizations is constantly increasing: Every year over 11,000 contracts between scientific research institutes and design bureaus and enterprises are implemented and the saving from the introduction of the work of Moscow scientists into production can be reckoned in billions of rubles.

Life demands that we seek and find new paths and forms of effectively combining the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution with the advantages and features of socialist economic management. Of course, it is important to have "intelligent" machinery and mechanisms, but it is also important to build up in every way the intellectual potential that all categories of our cadres comprise. Here it is essential to overcome the inertia in civic and professional thinking that exists in some cadres in scientific and production collectives where equanimity and indifference reign, where people are satisfied with repeating what world practice has long left behind.

Presently, in the period of implementing the economy's intensification and in the course of resolving the task of achieving the top world level of labor productivity on the basis of accelerating scientific-technical progress, it is necessary to intensify the training of production, scientific, and scientific-technical cadres.

The city party organization pays great attention to cadres of the mass professions. Almost all Moscow workers have secondary or partial secondary education. In the past 2 and 1/2 5-year plans 700,000 young workers have been trained in 200 professions in daytime and evening vocational and technical colleges. However, nowadays that is not enough. In particular on the current agenda is the question of equipping all working people with computer skills and achieving universal "computer literacy." It would be no exaggeration to say that at the present stage of our economy's development the solution of this task acquires exceptionally great importance.

The gorkom, raykoms, and primary party organizations pay great attention to training production technology intelligentsia cadres, improving organization, and raising the productivity of their labor. Further work in this direction should be geared toward enhancing the role and authority of the engineer in production and raising the prestige of engineering work. The first results of the wide-scale economic experiment, and over 80 of the capital's enterprises are taking part in it, show that there is an immediate need to improve the system of moral and material incentives for engineering and technical workers and to bring it more fully into line with the role which this category of cadres plays under the conditions of modern production.

The city party organization consistently implements measures to improve the qualifications of leading cadres and supplement their knowledge in the field of modern scientific methods of production management, planning, and organization. Since the beginning of the current 5-year plan about 55,000 leading personnel have undergone retraining at institutes for improving qualifications and at VUZ specialized courses and faculties.

Other forms of study are also being effectively used, making it possible to expand knowledge and enrich experience and improve the style and method of leading cadres' work. The permanently operating seminar of industrial enterprise directors created under the party gorkom, in which over 600 leaders of the capital's production associations, plants, and factories are studying, has given a good account of itself. Many classes aimed at uniting theory and practice are held at the city's leading enterprises, on the basis of thematic exhibitions at the USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements. Scientific-practical conferences on the generalization and dissemination of leading experience are regularly organized.

In Moscow right now 240,000 economic leaders -- from foremen to directors and sector leaders -- are studying at CPSU raykom and party committee schools of the party and economic aktiv, at theoretical and methodological seminars, and in the system of economic education. This work has been well organized in Kuybyshevskiy, Leninskiy, Sverdlovskiy, and a number of other rayons. During the classes enterprise leaders and their deputies gain systematized knowledge of key problems of the theory and practice of improving developed socialism. The majority of classes take place in the form of seminars, creative discussions, and business meetings with travel to enterprises and organizations.

Positive experience in retraining cadres and educating skilled organizers capable of mobilizing people to the solution of the tasks facing them has been accumulated in many of the capital's labor collectives. For instance, an effective system for training cadres at all levels has been created at the I.A. Likhachev Truck Plant. Workers here have the opportunity to train consistently at a vocational and technical college, tekhnikum, or plant-higher technical educational establishment while simultaneously acquiring management skills in production. Many foremen, shop chiefs, and enterprise leaders have traveled this path. Over two-thirds of subdivision chiefs are graduates of a plant higher technical educational establishment.

The CPSU gorkom and raykoms are consistently implementing the party-political education. In the period since the 26th CPSU Congress, over 6,000 party organizations secretaries and their deputies and over 350 party raykom workers have studied at the Moscow higher party school and the Moscow CPSU Gorkom University of Marxism-Leninism and its branches. Moscow CPSU Gorkom courses for improving the qualifications of party and soviet workers have given a good account of themselves.

Cadres' good ideological-theoretical training creates a good foundation for their political maturity and enables the leaders to seek to fulfill production plans by creating favorable social conditions for work and a moral and psychological climate in collectives helping to enhance the working people's awareness and activeness and to consolidate discipline and form implacability toward any instances of the violation of the interests of the collective and the state as a whole. This is the manner of work of the following Moscow plant directors: V.P. Shcherbakov, of the 50-Letiya SSSR Automated Lines Plant, O.A. Korolev, of the "Krasnyy Proletariy" Plant, N.I. Pershin, of the Second Clock and Watch Plant, V. Ye. Kopelev, chief of the Moscow City Main Administration for Housing and Civil Engineering Construction in Moscow City No 1 Housing Construction Combine, V.A. Kotelnikov, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics, and many others.

Arming leading cadres and management apparatus workers with modern scientific knowledge necessary for the effective leadership of particular sectors of economic, state, and cultural building, party organizations gain the opportunity to justifiably make really high demands on these workers and to raise their responsibility for the success of the matter. The combination of exactingness with trust and with attention toward people prompts cadres to work creatively, to learn and know how to use every opportunity to improve matters and to obtain good and results.

High exactingness and control over the execution of the matter in hand by every worker are important. Instances where a leading post is held by indifferent people, people who are inert or who simply do not know how to manage matters well, are utterly intolerable. People who have compromised themselves cannot be left in leading work, although this does unfortunately happen. There have been several directors in succession at the "Mosshtamp" Plant in recent years. They all left unpleasant memories. Then they were employed by the "Rosfurnitura" Production Association and the RSFSR Ministry of Light Industry in leading posts. Such instances do not help cadres' correct education.

In recent years the city party organization has done a lot to reinforce the leading personnel of enterprises of various sectors of the capital's economy. Right now almost all leading economic cadres approved by the party gorkom and raykoms have the necessary general educational and specialized training. As a rule they have experience of leading and engineering and technical work.

Democratic principles have been further developed in selecting and placing cadres. In promoting personnel, fuller account is taken of the opinion of labor collectives and the public and the results of certification. Where expedient, the elective system of appointing leading personnel is practiced and there is a competition system for filling vacancies. The importance of character references as important documents in work with cadres has been increased. Reports by leaders at party committee sessions and party meeting and individual talks with them on the most important questions of the collectives production and social life have been widely disseminated.

The leader of the modern type, not only the party or soviet leader but also the economic leader, is always an educator, a man who knows how to work with people.

The enhanced role of the "human factor" demands, as the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the participation of Estonian SSR Leading Cadres in Political Education Work Among the Working People" notes, that a Leninist style and traditions of daily political work among the masses become an inherent requirement for leaders of all levels. Communication with people ceases to be sporadic and it enters into cadres' activity as one of its inalienable components, providing direct and specific knowledge of new problems of an economic and social nature and of working people's feelings and interests. The Moscow Gorkom, party raykoms, and primary party organizations are seeking to ensure that organizational abilities, efficiency, sociability, practical know-how, the ability to approach people, and the ability to attract people. Communist Party mindedness is the basis, the foundation, here.

Leading cadres as a rule report regularly to the labor collectives. For instance, the regular integrated political days in which 22,000-23,000 party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol workers and ministry, department, and economic organ leaders take part, serve this aim. The party gorkom and raykoms and primary party organizations are seeking to ensure that not a single question raised remains without a clear reply and that every sensible proposal entails the adoption of specific measures. Integrated political days, open letter days, and reports to working people are a reliable channel of communication between party cadres and the masses and a good means of studying and molding public opinion.

Moscow's party organizations are continuing to improve the forms and methods of this work. They proceed from the conclusion of the CPSU Central Committee March Plenum that "the better informed people are, then the more consciously they act and the more vigorously they support the party and its plans and policy aims."

At the same time the study of the state of affairs locally shows that a certain proportion of leaders avoids addressing labor collectives and only rarelymeets with workers and employees. As a result these workers have only a poor knowledge of people's moods and of the many problems of life that perturb them and cannot successfully mobilize the collectives to resolve socioeconomic tasks. These shortcomings are within the purview of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and are carefully analyzed and persistently eliminated.

The improvement of cadres' qualitative makeup is a constant concern of the Moscow Gorkom and entire party organization. Existing blunders in the matter must be eliminated. Thus, the former manager of the "Spetsmashmontazh" No 4 Specialized Trust and the former director of the experimental municipal equipment plant and others were relieved of their posts and party action was taken against them for gross violations of staff and financial discipline and of the party principles of selecting, placing, and educating cadres.

The active struggle launched in connection with the demands of the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum for the consolidation of discipline and organization and against excess spending and waste, formalism and bureaucracy, theft and bribery, and alcohol abuse enjoys the Muscovites' broad support. The resolute measures carried out under the leadership of the gorkom have led to a substantial improvement of the situation within the systems of the Moscow City Main Administration for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry, city trade and a number of other spheres of services to the population.

Leaders who have failed to justify the trust placed in them and who have compromised themselves are replaced by tested workers devoted to the cause and the interests of the party and state, by people with lofty moral qualities. These are also precisely the demands made on the cadres reserve. Special care and circumspection are needed in this work. Often formalism is allowed here, and the political, professional, and moral qualities of candidates for leading posts are not studied in advance.

The party gorkom has seriously criticized Babushkinskiy, Gagarinskiy, Lyublinskiy, and several other raykoms for such shortcomings and is seeking to improve work with the reserve in all party organizations.

The CPSU gorkom steadily follows Lenin's rule: "The political leader is responsible not only for how he leads but also for what those he leads are doing." Special demands are made here on party committee and bureau and party raykom and gorkom cadres. The party worker must be a model of ideological fiber and principle and attention toward people. It is important to rule out completely the element of fortuitousness in promoting cadres to party organs.

An urgent task is the further enhancement of the prestige of elected party cadres and organs and their honed and constant responsibility for everything which takes place in the city, rayon, enterprise, institution, or educational establishment. Of course, this question applies to soviet, economic, and other cadres.

The city party organization still has a lot to do to ensure that cadre work fully accords with the nature and level of the tasks set by the Communist Party and the CPSU Central Committee. In launching preparation for the 27th CPSU Congress the Moscow Party Organization is improving work with all categories of cadres and is mobilizing the Communists and all working people to successfully fulfill the socio-economic development plans for the current year and the 11th 5-Year Plan as a whole and increase the Muscovites' contribution to the further economic and social development of our motherland.

RSFSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION HELD

PM171221 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Apr 85 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report on 15 April RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium session: "At the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] At a routine session the RSFSR Council of Ministers, the Presidium examined a number of questions connected with enhancing the effectiveness of the republic's industry and agriculture. Proposals were heard from the RSFSR Gosplan and Ministry of Railroads on measures to ensure the uninterrupted operation of transport in the 1985-1986 winter period. It was noted that the republic's ministries and departments and local soviets must draw practical conclusions from the unsatisfactory operation of transport last winter. Above all, the consequences of winter's upheavals must be overcome and the delivery of delayed freight must be speeded up. It is necessary to organize matters so as to ensure that the forthcoming diversion of transport facilities for agricultural shipments does not have an adverse effect on the rhythm of industrial and construction production activity.

A resolution "On Measures To Develop Chelyabinsk Oblast's Agriculture for 1986 Through 1990" was adopted. It provides for a substantial increase in the production of grain, potatoes, vegetables, meat, milk, and eggs. Lofty agricultural heights must be scaled through the more rational use of the production potential of the agro-industrial complex, and of the earmarked material and technical resources and capital investments, widely introducing the achievements of science and advanced experience and the progressive organization and remuneration of labor. The implementation of the projected measures will make it possible to supply foodstuffs to the population of a very large industrial region.

Measures were examined and approved for the preferential development of the production of meat and dairy products of heightened nutritional and biological value and the improvement of their quality and range.

The document set specific targets for the republic's Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, Ministry of the Food Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry, and other sectors and departments.

V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, led the session.

BRIEFS

COMMEMORATIVE COIN ISSUED -- Moscow April 17 TASS -- A memorable coin with a designation of one rouble is to be put into circulation in the USSR as of April 18 on the occasion of the 115th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth. It is made of cooper-nickel alloy of white colour and has the form of a circle with the diameter of 31 millimetres. On the obverse side of the coin there is the relief image of V.I. Lenin and to the left -- the dates "1870" and "1924" and in the lower part there is the inscription "V.I. Lenin". On the reverse side of the coin there are the USSR state emblem and the inscriptions "USSR", "1 rouble" and "1985". [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1939 GMT 17 Apr 85 LD]

NEW BOOK ABOUT LENIN -- Moscow April 15 TASS -- Progress Publishers have prepared for print a book entitled "Vladimir Ilich Lenin -- Life and Activities". It is to be published in Russian, English, and Vietnamese, writes MN INFORMATION. The volume contains more than 1,100 various documents: snapshots, photocopies of Lenin's manuscripts, reproductions of pictures by outstanding painters, cartographic materials, etc. The publication is general based on documents from the funds of the Moscow Central Lenin Museum. Multifarious illustrated materials are accompanied by publicistic text, telling about Lenin's activities in the major periods of his life. The book will have an introductory article, a chronology of Lenin's life and activities, indices of names and a bibliography. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 15 Apr 85 LD]

LATVIAN OFFICIAL HONORED -- We have recieved a decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the awarding of the Order of Lenin to Yuriy Yanovich Ruben, chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers. This is to mark his many years of fruitful work in party and administrative bodies and also his 60th birthday. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 85 LD]

SUPREME SOVIET HONORS ARTIST -- The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has conferred the title of "People's Artist of the USSR" on the Moscow artist A.M. (Shilov). [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0001 GMT 17 Apr 85 LD]

OIL WORKERS HONORED -- U.S. Supreme Soviet Presidium has decreed lofty government awards on a large group of Tomsk Oblast oil workers for achieving the highest results in drilling wells. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0001 GMT 17 Apr 85 LD]

EARLY APRIL AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS REPORTED

PM171209 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 85 Morning Edition p 1

[O. Pavlov "Agricultural Review": "Strain and Yield"]

[Text] According to the latest data, by Monday 8 April, 3.4 million hectares of spring crops had been sown in the country. This includes 1.8 million hectares of grain and pulse crops (excluding corn). Last week farmers began sowing in Rostov, Belgorod, Amur, and Alma-Ata Oblasts and in Khabarovsk Kray. Some 370,000 hectares of cotton have been sown.

Today 2.3 zoned strains of each grain crops are cultivated in all our farming regions. As you can see, it is no mean choice. The country has more than 50 functioning selection centers. They have offered farms strains that are more responsible to irrigation and intensive cultivation.

There have been considerable successes in rye, barley and alfalfa selection. Feed beans, a valuable but almost forgotten crop, are being revived in the Ukraine.

A number of promising innovations are expected to be introduced this spring. Latvian kolkhozes and sovkhozes are planning to replace two-thirds of their spring crop strains with more intensive strains. These promising innovations are the result of the work of scientists and specialists at the republican scientific research institute of arable farming and agricultural economics.

Through the efforts of selection and production workers farms in Azerbaijan's Kura-Araksinskaya Lowlands, the republic's main cotton-producing zone, are fully provided with seeds of excellent quality.

The republic is paying a lot of attention to cotton selection. This year the bulk of the area set aside for this crop will be sown with seeds of the "30-38" strain. It is noted for high productivity, resistance to diseases, and rapid germination.

It must be noted that party and government decisions have ensured that selection workers have good conditions for their work. However, our farms and our economy as a whole are not yet getting the return they are entitled to expect from selection work. There are problems with the improvement of seed growing for industrial crops -- sunflower and sugar beet. Many strains of vegetables and potatoes fall short of modern demands, the basic requirements being a high degree of palatability, ability to travel well [nadezhnost pri transportirovke], and a good marketable appearance. Feed grasses have lost some oftheir immunity to diseases. The zoned winter grain in the Central Chernozem region and in the southern Ukraine lacks so-called winter-hardiness. There has been more talk at various conferences about the mass switching of seed growing to industrial methods than real action. These are problems for the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and its bodies.

However, the production workers, too -- the farm leaders and specialists -- are often responsible for reducing the potential impact of work of selection workers and those who are breeding new strains. One-third of our farms obtain fewer than 22 quintals of grain per hectare, even on irrigated land. Although they have rather good strains of corn, the kolkhozes and sovkhozes last year sowed them on only one-fifth of the irrigated land.

The potential for obtaining strong and durum wheats is still not being adequately exploited in a number of rayons. Purchases of them (average annual) have fallen in the current 5-year period compared with the last. The amount of durum wheat being delivered to the state is particularly small.

Procurement workers are still making a poor job of stimulating the production of strong and durum wheats. Many farms are not very willing to work with them. This gives rise to an abnormal situation: There is a shortage of high-quality food grain and much of it is being used as livestock feed it has not been brought up to the required standard.

This year is the year of the extensive introduction of industrial techniques. A model is being created of stable grain production in the country. The important thing is for the selection workers and strain testers to contribute to this work.

Field work is gathering momentum with each passing day. Because spring was delayed, the amount of time available for the work has been sharply reduced. However, while increasing the pace, one must also be mindful of quality and of that very important condition of high arable farming standards -- precise observance of farming practices relating to specific strains. For this is one sure way of intensifying crop production.

SPRING FIELD PREPARATION TASKS OUTLINED

OW160341 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0325 GMT 13 Apr 85

[From "Political Observer's Talk" program with Anatoliy Ivashchenko]

[Excerpts] Good evening, comrades. The current winter with its harsh frosts and heavy snowfalls has been and is still retreating very slowly. The frosts and snowfalls have shifted the normal time for spring field work by 8 to 12 days and by a whole month in some places. This is the reason why by the beginning of the current week, summer crops had been sown on less than 3.5 million hectares in the country. Real warm weather came during the past few days, and immediately the sowing grew in scale. The roar of motors is heard now all over the Ukraine, in the steppes of Stavropol Kray, the Kuban and Don regions, the Lower Volga area, Moldavia, and the southern parts of Belorussia and Kazakhstan. Cotton and corn are now being planted in Central Asia, and mass planting of early potatoes has begun in Georgia and Azerbaijan.

It is gratifying that the past winter has literally heaped snow on all our main grain producing regions. For a long time there has not been enough snow, especially in very arid zones. Yet in many places snow fell on deeply frozen soil or on an ice crust, and this presents the danger of a quick thaw, uncontrolled floods, the flushing away of nutrients, and even washing away of soil. In order to prevent torrents from flowing uselessly into rivers and lakes, they have been diverted toward ponds and water reservoirs which have become exhausted and dry because of last year's drought. Retaining winter precipitation and channeling it to the soil means delaying pre-sowing tilling and the sowing as well. This will lead to late ripening of the crops and to having to fight for them in the fall against bad weather and even early snowfalls. The agricultural workers have taken note of this circumstance and quickly reorganized the sowing strategy and coordinated all these changes with their partners in the agro-industrial complex.

Scientists recommend plowing as shallowly as possible, as it can be done quicker, will save fuel, and will prevent the soil from drying up. Sowing must be carried out as soon as plowing is done. This method will be useful for agronomists. In the present difficult situation, they must react very quickly to all the changes in the weather, soil, and technological means, and skillfully implement the program for stabilizing grain production. This is a key task for the current 5-year plan period and will most probably be a key task in the coming 5-year plan period.

Despite the late spring, Rostov Oblast grain producers, in order to reduce their debt to the country caused by 4 consecutive years of drought, have set themselves a very great task, that of obtaining in the current year, the final one of the 5-year plan period, not less than 8 million tons of grain.

The agricultural workers have filed many justified complaints against their partner, the chemical industry, this year. It is good that our country occupies the first place in the world in the production of mineral fertilizers. This year's harsh winter, and you cannot disregard it, has complicated the work of this branch. There were also great difficulties on the railroads, and not only there, but also in the transportation of fertilizers from where they were unloaded and taken to the farms. The situation is being stabilized now, and time lost must be made good as fast as possible; and in places where it is not too late it is necessary to speed up the transportation of local fertilizers and use all existing means for this purpose.

This year the area of intensive cultivation of grain crops will reach 17 million hectares for the first time. Great significance to this matter is paid by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers.

According to data supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Vaskhnil Academy, the winter crops are in fair condition this spring. However, the situation is not the same everywhere. In some places there is a stubborn ice crust lying over fields under cultivation. In some oblasts in the southern Ukraine, in the Chernozem Region, the North Caucasus, and the Volga Region it may be necessary to repair fields and replant in some places. The late and tricky spring is a handicap in this field, and in some places there may be floods just as there have been in the south of the country. Winter crops may be waterlogged in some places. All this must be taken into consideration by field work organizers in their daily and hourly work.

KOLDUNOV INTERVIEWED ON AIR DEFENSE FORCES DAY

PM171354 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 85 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Chief Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces and USSR deputy defense minister, by unnamed PRAVDA correspondent under the rubric "Today Is Air Defense Forces Day"; "Emulating the Victory Banners" -- first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] On the eve of the holiday Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Chief Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces, and USSR deputy defense minister, received a PRAVDA correspondent and answered his questions.

Question: The Air Defense Troops' holiday, established exactly 10 years ago, has already become a tradition, but, of course, it always bears the sign of the times. What typifies today's holiday, in your view?

Answer: We are celebrating it in an atmosphere of great political and labor enthusiasm on the part of the Soviet people occasioned by the preparations for the 27th CPSU Congress and the 40th anniversary of the great victory: That is the main thing. It has become a good tradition among Army and Navy servicemen to mark the congresses of Lenin's party with lofty achievements in military training. We interpreted as a combat mandate from the party and people the words pronounced at the CPSU Central Committee Extraordinary March Plenum: "In the complex international situation it is more important than ever to maintain our motherland's defense capability at such a level that potential aggressors are well aware that an encroachment on the security of the Soviet land and that of its allies and on the peaceful life of Soviet people will be met by a crushing blow."

In less than a month it will be the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. It is particularly precious for me, a front-line soldier, to see that the preparations for the celebration of the remarkable jubilee have occasioned among today's servicemen a surge of patriotic sentiments, considerably enhanced socio-political and martial activeness, and intensified the desire not only to carefully preserve with care but also augment the glorious combat traditions of those who defended the honor and independence of our motherland in the terrible battles against the cruel enemy.

Question: How is the very rich combat experience of the Great Patriotic War being used today in the service of the Air Defense Forces?

Answer: In turning to the experience of the war, you realize again and again its lasting value for the more profound solution of the problems of modern military theory and practice. The experience of the war confirmed the need to pool all the Air Defense Forces and means under a combined command, to use them in a massed, comprehensive, and active manner, to create a superiority in forces on the most probable flight paths of possible enemy raids, to maneuver forces and means skillfully, and to provide comprehensive support for combat operations...

The war showed that, in order to train troops to fight successfully against the enemy, it is necessary to possess a profound knowledge of equipment and the skill to use it in any situation, and that all command cadres need firm skills in organizing combat operations and controlling troops during battle.

Finally, the experience of the Great Patriotic War is an important factor today in the patriotic education of our servicemen. As during the war, so today, the basis of their staunchness, determination, inflexible will for victory, and ability to overcome any difficulties was and remains communist conviction and boundless devotion to the party and the socialist motherland.

Today the Air Defense Forces are equipped with the most up-to-date and effective antiaircraft, and radar equipment capable of detecting and destroying means of air attack that exist now or which may exist in the future, at any altitude, day or night, in any weather, and despite possible enemy radioelectronic countermeasures. Of course, the main strength of our forces was and remains the remarkable troops, who are masters at their jobs.

Question: Aleksandr Ivanovich, what does the high combat readiness of the Air Defense Forces consist of, and how is it achieved?

Answer: Means of air attack are seen as a first strike weapon in the imperialists' aggressive plans. This places a special responsibility on the Air Defense Forces and requires them to be maintained in a state of high combat readiness. To put it briefly, high combat readiness is a fusion of technical equipment, military training, and moral, political, psychological, and physical tempering of servicemen. It enables subunits and units to go into action immediately in any situation, to rebuff the attack of an airborne enemy, to act skillfully, resolutely, and rapidly, and to make the maximum use of the potential of weaponry and hardware.

I would like to stress that the Air Defense servicemen are profoundly aware of their responsibility for the security of the motherland's air borders and are doing their utmost to master the difficult science of victory. Along the more than 60,000 km of the country's air borders, at launch sites, in fighter cabins, and at radar screens, there are well-trained, ideologically tempered, and in brief reliable people to be found.

TRANCAUCASUS DISTRICT OFFICER IDENTIFIED

PM161011 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 10 April 1985 in its Second Edition carries on page 4 a report by Lieutenant Colonel N. Mulyar under the heading "Worthy Recruits for the Army" on a conference of military commissars and chiefs of military commissariat sections from Georgia, held in Tbilisi, reportedly attended by "Lieutenant General A. Kleymenov, chief of staff of the Transcaucasus Military District."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA PROFILES GEN D. T. YAZOV

PM171050 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 13 April 1985 in its Second Edition carries on page 3 a 2,600-word article by own special correspondent Colonel G. Kashuba under the headline "Born in Yazovo; Pages From a Commander's Biography." Kashuba profiles General Yazov's career from a wartime lieutenant to the General Staff academy and divisional commander at the Chita Garrison, and finally to his present post of commander of the Red Banner Far Eastern Military District and candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee. Yazov is described in the words of his wartime personal report as a "bold, valiant, and enterprising commander" and a "strong-willed, demanding, and comprehensively trained person."